

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 1, 2016

TO: Steven A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: Austin R. Powers, Cognizant Engineer
SUBJECT: Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) Report for March 2016

DNFSB Staff Activity: A. Powers was on site March 7th – 10th for his Human Reliability Program (HRP) appointments and to perform cognizant engineer oversight duties. On March 31, 2016, the Nevada Field Office (NFO) notified A. Powers that he is officially HRP certified.

Device Assembly Facility (DAF) Fire Suppression System (FSS) Improvement Project:

During the month of March, National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec) personnel working the FSS Lead-in Replacement Project completed the pressure testing of the three newly replaced lead-in lines. The pressure tests results validated that the new lead-in lines had proper seals—there were no signs of leaks. NSTec has also completed the backfilling of the lead-in line ditches with the controlled low-strength material (CLSM) concrete. The FSS project team is currently beginning preparations for work on the next building and planning to install the recently delivered sprinkler heads to address the FSS sprinkler system deficiencies in the buildings that are out of service. NSTec will return the buildings to service once the deficiencies have been addressed and the CLSM concrete has been cured.

DAF Coring Project. NFO has received the corrective action plan (CAP) for the findings from the Federal Readiness Assessment for the Coring Project from NSTec. NFO plans to accept the CAP for all of the findings except for the finding regarding the maintenance on the high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter system. NSTec is currently addressing the deficiencies with the HEPA filter system and plans to have the issue resolved prior to startup of coring operations in May 2016.

U1a Complex Life Safety and Fire Protection Improvements Project. During the month of March, the U1a Complex completed the drift extension mining into the Zero Room. The extension of this drift created a secondary egress route for the workers out of the Zero Room. NSTec plans to re-install the ventilation system for the drift and Zero Room by May 2016. NSTec has also continued to make life safety improvements by reducing the amount of combustible loading in the U1a Complex. NSTec has recently removed old diagnostic cables near and inside refuge stations. NSTec has also continued its work on the installation of fire doors throughout the facility.

Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experiment Research (JASPER): JASPER conducted Surrogate Shot 139 successfully, which returned 100% data. The experiment was executed in a safe manner with no safety issues to report. The next scheduled Actinide Shot is still on hold pending the resolution of issues with the certification for the 9977 and 9978 shipping containers.