DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 3, 2025

TO: R. T. Davis, Acting Technical Director
FROM: E. Freeman, D. Gutowski, and J. Kemp, Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Activity Report for the Week Ending January 3, 2025

Site Operations: The Los Alamos National Laboratory was closed from December 25 through January 1, reopening on January 2 as part of a planned limitation on operational activities over the holiday timeframe. Minimum staffing was present to ensure safe and secure operations.

Ion Beam Facility: On December 18, 2024, Triad transferred the management of the Ion Beam Facility (IBF) to APTIM Federal Services LLC (APTIM), who the DOE Environmental Management Field Office contracted to perform the deactivation, decommissioning and removal work beginning in 2025. The IBF, which was built in 1951 and operated until 1999, houses two accelerators and equipment used for nuclear experimentation and is contaminated with tritium, asbestos, and other hazardous materials.

Dual-Axis Radiographic Hydrodynamic Test Facility (DAHRT): On December 16, 2024, the DOE NNSA field office approved the proposal from Triad for a safety basis strategy covering a new experiment at DARHT which will make use of the Beryllium Reflected Plutonium (BeRP) ball. As an accelerator, the facility safety envelope is defined by DOE Order 420.2D, *Safety of Accelerators*, and activities are approved and implemented through a Safety Assessment Document (SAD) and Accelerator Safety Envelope (ASE). Under the DOE-approved approach, Triad will create two addenda that cover the activities of the new BeRP ball experiment. One addendum will be to the DARHT SAD/ASE focused on topics such as hazard identification and analysis, compensatory measures and additional controls, and nuclear criticality safety. The second addendum will be to the laboratory transportation safety document and include information such as the safety assessment methodology, transport vehicle operations, and associated technical safety requirements.

Resident Inspector Activities: Recently, DNFSB Resident Inspectors along with an NNSA Facility Representative performed an on-site observation of the plutonium facility roofing system and structure. Observations focused on the roof condition in the areas where roof leaks and patching efforts repeatedly occur in addition to the general condition of the roof.