

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 1, 2018

TO: Steven A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: Douglas J. Brown, Cognizant Engineer
SUBJECT: Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Report for May 2018

DNFSB Staff Activity: On May 1–3, 2018, a Board’s staff member attended the Nuclear Explosive Safety Workshop to maintain awareness of current areas of nuclear safety research and development, nuclear explosive safety initiatives underway, and forthcoming changes meaningful to the Nuclear Explosive Safety community.

Annular Core Research Reactor Reactivity Control System Upgrade (RCSU) Update: As discussed in the April 2018 monthly report, SNL personnel completed RCSU acceptance testing on May 11, 2018, and calibrations on May 15, 2018. On May 17–31, 2018, SNL personnel conducted the RCSU Management Self-Assessment which included an operation drill conducted on May 23, 2018. The Contractor Readiness Assessment is still planned for the latter half of June 2018.

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) No-Notice Compliance Evaluation

Inspection: On May 14, 2018, eight inspectors from the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau arrived on-site to conduct a no-notice compliance evaluation inspection. The lead NMED inspector identified the overall scope of the inspection included the permitted units, all 16 less-than 90-day accumulation areas, satellite accumulation points (SAP) associated with <90-day accumulation areas, and an undetermined number of additional SAPs. The inspection concluded on May 17, 2018. After inspecting 856 locations, the inspectors identified three potential issues and 14 recommendations for continuous improvement. The initial summary did not identify any issues related to Hazard Category 2 or 3 defense nuclear facilities. NMED is anticipated to conduct a closeout meeting in June 2018.

Sandia Pulsed Reactor Facility (SPRF) Umbilical Rerouting Update: SNL personnel completed the umbilical rerouting project for replacement cabling and testing between the SPRF critical experiment control room in the Falcon’s Nest and the critical experiment structure in the Reactor Room on May 22, 2018.

Facility Representative (FR) Qualifications: As discussed in the April 2017 monthly report, the Sandia Field Office began a qualification process for two new FRs in Technical Area V. On May 24, 2018, one of the two FRs in training completed a final comprehensive exam. An evaluated facility walkthrough and final oral board with the Deputy Manager are still required. The currently qualified FR will be departing in July 2018 for a 10-month off-site detail.