

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 16, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: D. Gutowski, Resident Inspector
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Activity Report for Week Ending July 16, 2021

Emergency Management: On Monday, a 4.2 magnitude earthquake and several smaller events occurred approximately 50 km northwest of the laboratory. Onsite personnel felt the event, and facility personnel performed inspections which concluded there was no damage. A seismic cutoff valve for the natural gas feed into TA-55 did actuate during the event.

On Tuesday, the NNSA Field Office conditionally approved Triad's April request for an extension of the suspension of certain requirements from DOE Order 151.1D, *Comprehensive Emergency Management System*, as a result of the COVID-19 response. Triad noted they would be unable to meet many of the order's requirements for FY2021 largely due to limiting in-person drills. While NNSA agreed to continue the suspension of requirements, they noted that due to increasing vaccination, the risk profile for conducting more in-person drills and exercises is far lower now than when the suspension of requirements per secretarial memo was enacted last October. Therefore, NNSA provided two conditions of approval. First, they asked that Triad develop a prioritized list of facilities to begin conducting in-person drills and exercises prior to the end of the fiscal year. Second, they stated that Triad should begin meeting all order requirements at the start of FY2022.

Transuranic Waste Management: Triad has resumed regular shipping of their transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. NNSA owned shipments were paused following the February reactive event involving titanium fines. Last week, there were two shipments from the RANT Shipping Facility which included a mix of NNSA and EM owned containers. There were also two shipments of NNSA owned containers from the RANT Shipping Facility this week.

Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building (CMR)–Infrastructure: On Tuesday, the NNSA Field Office concurred with Triad's determination that installation of a supplemental ventilation skid to replace a failed ventilation fan in the inactive Wing 3 of CMR does not constitute a major modification (see 5/7/2021 report).

Transuranic Waste Facility (TWF): On Wednesday, the NNSA Field Office unconditionally approved the revised safety basis for TWF that addresses performance of the fire pumps (see 5/28/2021 report). The approval noted that the new revision addressed all NNSA comments on a previous version and requested implementation within 60 days. Full implementation is the last step to get the fire suppression system elevated to safety-significant, as originally documented in a 2018 safety basis revision.

Plutonium Facility–Conduct of Operations: The resident inspector and Triad personnel walked down portions of the Plutonium Facility to observe current housekeeping and combustible loading conditions. Conditions were not appreciably different compared to last month (see 6/18/2021 report). While facility personnel have removed some of the combustible items that had been lingering in the basement, the overall amount of waste bags in that area was slightly higher. Triad management is accelerating their efforts to improve waste removal and housekeeping in the facility.