

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 7, 2023

**TO:** Katherine R. Herrera, Acting Technical Director  
**FROM:** A. Boussouf and D. Gutowski, Resident Inspectors  
**SUBJECT:** Los Alamos Activity Report for the Week Ending July 7, 2023

**Area G–Operations:** Last week, the Environmental Management Field Office approved N3B’s corrective action plan from the federal readiness assessment for corrugated metal pipe (CMP) size reduction. They also authorized startup of the activity. N3B personnel commenced size reduction of CMPs last Thursday, completed one cut on a CMP, and packaged the resulting segment in a standard waste box. This week they completed cutting the first CMP. Each CMP gets four cuts resulting in five segments. Three of the segments were packaged, and the last two remain in the shear assembly in the Dome 375 Permacon. There have been no unexpected radiological conditions during the cutting activity. Meanwhile, retrieval of CMPs continues with seven total units retrieved and staged.

**Technical Area 21–Decontamination and Decommissioning:** Last Friday, N3B transmitted their quarterly startup notification report to the Environmental Management field office for approval. Last quarter, the field office requested that N3B provide a determination regarding whether readiness reviews would be required for activities at Building 21-257 or the nearby industrial waste lines. In response, this startup notification report included an assessment of initial characterization activities at 21-257 that concluded these sampling activities would not need any formal readiness reviews since they would be performed outside of safety basis controls as a less than hazard category 3 activity. A nuclear criticality safety determination for these activities concluded that they will remain subcritical for all normal and credible abnormal conditions.

**Plutonium Facility–Safety Basis:** On Monday, Safety Basis personnel entered the new information process to evaluate the discrepancies in material-at-risk limits identified during the readiness assessments for receipt of large heat source plutonium shipments (see 6/30/2023 report).

**Plutonium Facility–Infrastructure:** Last Monday, the NNSA field office and project office unconditionally approved the latest revision to the safety design strategy for the Los Alamos Plutonium Pit Production Project (LAP4) (see 6/2/2023 report).

**Fire Protection:** On Friday, the laboratory activated Stage 1 fire restrictions and increased their fire danger rating to very high. This increase was due to continued dry conditions on-site and in the surrounding area. Work restrictions are currently in-place to prohibit or limit certain activities, such as spark producing and shot/burn activities on laboratory property.