

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 12, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: Jonathan Plaue, DNFSB Site Representative
SUBJECT: LLNL Activity Report for Week Ending October 12, 2012

Maintenance: The laboratory contractor recently completed a Joint Functional Area Manager/Line Management Assessment (JFLMA) on implementation of nuclear facility maintenance. The JFLMA team examined maintenance activities performed by Superblock and Radioactive and Hazardous Waste Management personnel in their facilities, as well as maintenance support activities provided by institutional organizations. Overall, the JFLMA team determined that maintenance activities in the nuclear facilities were being performed in accordance with Department of Energy (DOE) Order 433.1B, *Maintenance Management Program for DOE Nuclear Facilities*. However, the team identified 3 deficiencies (a non-compliance), 15 observations (warrants action tracking), and 7 strengths (best management practices).

Notably, two of the deficiencies involved the content and execution of “Task Code” maintenance procedures. Task Codes are commonly used on some systems designated as Equipment Important to Safety. Specifically, the Task Codes were found to inconsistently identify acceptance criteria, the individual responsible for evaluating data, and actions to be taken if acceptance criteria were not met. Issues with the Task Codes were previously identified in a 2009 maintenance review, as well as contributed to unauthorized maintenance on the fire suppression system in the Tritium Facility (see weekly report dated July 8, 2011). The contractor is developing corrective actions. Also of note, the Livermore Site Office (LSO) shadowed the JFLMA and determined that the JFLMA met or exceeded expectations for each of the nine criteria used by LSO to assess the quality of assessments performed by the contractor.

Fire Protection: Last month, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) issued the report from the mutual assessment of the fire protection program at LLNL. The laboratories have agreed to perform these mutual assessments as part of their processes to ensure compliance with DOE Order 420.1B, *Facility Safety*. Overall, LANL determined LLNL’s program to be free of findings (a noncompliance judged to pose a significant risk). LANL identified 2 observations (a noncompliance judged not to pose a significant risk) concerning the methodology used to determine the values for maximum potential fire losses in the fire. LANL also noted 2 opportunities for improvement concerning the quality of fire protection program documentation and procedures, as well as 3 noteworthy practices concerning the centralization of fire protection related services and efforts to upgrade the central monitoring system to a UL listed site.

The Site Representative notes that this program of mutual fire protection program assessments represents one of the first substantive LLNL-LANL exchanges with an impact on nuclear facility operations. Next month, LANL personnel will visit LLNL to discuss other potential areas of beneficial exchange.