

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 23, 2013

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Steven Stokes, Acting Technical Director  
**FROM:** Jonathan Plaue, DNFSB Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** LLNL Activity Report for Week Ending August 23, 2013

**DNFSB Staff Activity:** On Wednesday, Anderson, Dunlevy, McComb, Ogg, and Shackelford conducted a teleconference with personnel from the Livermore Field Office (LFO). The purpose of the teleconference was to obtain status on the resolution of open staff issues regarding the safety basis for the Waste Storage Facilities. Consistent with recent recommendations, LFO is beginning to take steps that drive resolution of issues earlier in the safety basis development and review cycle.

**Emergency Management:** On Tuesday, the laboratory contractor conducted the annual Emergency Planning Hazards Assessment exercise for the Area 625 portion of the Waste Storage Facilities. This year's scenario involved a drum of transuranic (TRU) waste that deflagrated and released its contents resulting in localized radioactive contamination—the scenario did not include injuries or personnel contamination. In a change from past practice, the contractor conducted the initial entry and scene assessment activities performed by Alameda County Fire Department personnel in a stop-action training style utilizing two subject matter expert controller/evaluators (a firefighter captain and a radcon supervisor). The firefighters clearly benefited from this training; however, the contractor will need to balance objectives of training and evaluation as they strengthen the drill and exercise program (see weekly report dated August 9, 2013).

**Plutonium Facility:** In a letter dated August 16, 2013, LFO approved the contractor's request to utilize pure oxygen in the oxidation furnace for the plutonium hydride/nitride/oxide system (see weekly report dated June 28, 2013). As a condition of approval, LFO mandated designation of a gas line restricting orifice as a design feature categorized as Defense-in-Depth Equipment Important to Safety.

**Management:** The contractor is required to submit annually a multi-year performance strategy to highlight outcomes and measures to be used to drive improved performance during the upcoming five-year window. LFO personnel are currently reviewing the 2013-2017 strategy document. The Site Representative noted the following in the current submittal:

- Programmatically, the contractor's strategy is silent on the role of the nuclear facilities and their capabilities for the complex
- For nuclear facility operations, the contractor has not defined any out-year deliverables and the expected accomplishment is defined as effective and compliant processes—largely unchanged from last year's strategy
- For waste management, the contractor expects to repackage TRU waste drums and to size reduce oversized TRU boxes for a 2016 campaign to ship to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, though quantities are unspecified
- Stated contributions from parent organizations in the form of Functional Management Reviews of interest for the coming fiscal year include: LLNS-LANS integration, preventive and corrective maintenance, deinventory, and contractor assurance system effectiveness