

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 2, 2016

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** S.A. Stokes, Technical Director  
**FROM:** R.K. Verhaagen and J.W. Plaue  
**SUBJECT:** Los Alamos Report for Week Ending December 2, 2016

**DNFSB Staff Activity:** On Wednesday, D.K. Andersen and B.K. Caleca participated in the fortnightly teleconference with LANL and NNSA regarding seismic analysis and testing for the Plutonium Facility. On Thursday, M.W. Dunlevy, P.J. Foster, P.J. Migliorini, and S. Sircar conducted a teleconference regarding atmospheric dispersion, including an emphasis on the application in the safety basis for Transuranic Waste Facility, with LANL and NNSA Field Office personnel.

**Inappropriately Remediated Nitrate Salt (RNS) Waste Treatment–Startup Activities:** On Tuesday, the management self-assessment (MSA) team conducted an in-brief for their review of readiness of the RNS waste processing campaign, including the restart of the Waste Characterization Reduction and Repackaging Facility (WCRRF). The MSA team will conduct document reviews, personnel interviews, facility walk-downs, and observe performance demonstrations and emergency response. The team will observe activities in Area G and WCRRF to include: denesting an RNS drum from its standard waste box; drum movements in the Dome 375 Permacon, refrigerator, and WCRRF; loading and unloading the designated transport vehicle; and process operations using surrogate material.

**Area G–Safety Basis:** On Wednesday, LANL transmitted to the NNSA Field Office for approval, a request for Area G to receive and store waste drums related to RNS treatment activities. LANL requires this approval because of the material-at-risk restrictions that are currently implemented by the Evaluation of the Safety of the Situation for material-at-risk discrepancies. LANL identified the following waste as candidates for this request: (1) transuranic and/or low level waste generated from cleanout of the WCRRF glovebox prior to processing RNS waste; (2) low level waste containers currently staged in the WCRRF transportainers; (3) the transuranic waste drum currently stored in the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research (CMR) building that originated from WCRRF (see 11/4/16 weekly); and (4) any drums identified in (1) or (2) that may be sent to CMR for temporary storage while the request is pending approval.

**RANT Shipping Facility:** On Tuesday, sub-contractors commenced geotechnical investigation activities needed to inform the design for the seismic structural upgrade. LANL currently anticipates completion of the design in March 2017.

**Contractor Assurance System:** Last week, the LANL Director signed and transmitted the annual contractor assurance letter to the NNSA Field Office and LANS LLC Board of Governors. The letter documents LANL's verification that the CAS is compliant with contractual requirements and laboratory policies. The letter notes continued progress against the multi-year Performance Assurance Improvement Plan with this year's focus on strengthening the issues management process. Other notable achievements include: re-establishing the Institution Management Review Board; revision of the CAS description document; completion of four Facility Evaluations; a re-boot of the causal analyst program; and newly developed institutional metrics linked to the LANL Director's critical issues list.