

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 28, 2024

TO: Timothy J. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: D. Gutowski, Resident Inspector
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Activity Report for the Week Ending June 28, 2024

Staff Activity: On Wednesday, a staff team held a remote interaction with Triad and NNSA Field Office personnel to discuss safety basis integration with decontamination and decommissioning activities as part of their continuing review (see 9/22/2023 report).

Area G–Safety Basis: On Monday, N3B submitted a 90% draft of the new safety basis for Area G to the Environmental Management field office for information. This submittal is intended to help inform a meeting with Environmental Management headquarters personnel next week to review technical safety requirements. Submittal of a final document is expected in July contingent upon the results of next week’s discussions.

Plutonium Facility–Continuous Improvement: On Monday, Triad personnel briefed Weapons Production management on the conclusions of a common cause analysis for events related to material handling. Facility management directed this analysis following the smoking can event last September (see 9/22/2023 report). The scope included nine material move events from July 2019 through November 2023 representing a variety of event types including small fires and unexpected elevated doses. The analysis identified four common causes as well as numerous contributing factors and opportunities for improvement. The common causes were: less than adequate hazard analysis, inconsistent compliance with the work planning process, less than adequate management and control of corrective actions, and weaknesses in pre-job briefings.

Last Wednesday, Triad implemented the new revision of the procedure used for performing fissile material moves (see 5/24/2024 report).

Safety Basis: On Wednesday, Triad requested NNSA Field Office approval to expand the use of a new methodology for the aircraft crash analysis. Last November, the Field Office approved a new aircraft crash analysis for Technical Area 55 facilities. This analysis used a new methodology based on a draft American Nuclear Society consensus standard, *Accident Analysis for Aircraft Crash into Reactor and Nonreactor Nuclear Facilities*, that is expected to be finalized in 2025. Triad is requesting approval to use this methodology for all its nuclear facilities. In 2019, the Board advised DOE to revise approaches to analyzing aircraft crashes (see Board Letter 11/6/2019).

Transuranic Liquid Waste Facility (TLW): On Thursday, the NNSA Field Office provided comments on the 90% draft safety basis submittal for TLW to support final development of the 100% submittal (see 5/10/2024 report). Of note, the field office commented on including a chemical compatibility evaluation for absorbents used for dewatering transuranic waste drums (see 2/24/2023 report).