

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 25, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: M. J. Merritt, DNFSB Site Representative
SUBJECT: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)
Report for Week Ending May 25, 2007

External Safety Performance Audit: This week, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conducted an audit of safety performance at LLNL. The GAO audit included an assessment of safety leadership at the lab, feedback and improvement effectiveness, and site office capabilities. The Site Representative met with the GAO audit team to discuss the status of nuclear safety issues and recent initiatives by the Board to improve the safety posture of LLNL nuclear facilities. The GAO team was particularly interested in LLNL's process for implementing safety requirements at nuclear facilities and issues with the effectiveness of the feedback and improvement process used at LLNL. The Site Representative provided an overview to the GAO team on how the contractor, the Livermore Site Office (LSO), and DOE/NNSA are performing in the areas of interest.

Federal Contract Transition Management Plan: LSO has issued its *Contract Transition Management Plan* to establish roles, responsibilities, and a schedule for contract transition activities at LLNL. The plan is intended to provide the necessary guidance to ensure that LSO can meet its responsibilities with regard to oversight of the transition process from the current contractor to the new contractor – Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS) – a team consisting of Bechtel National, University of California, BWX Technologies, Washington Group International, and Battelle. LLNS will begin operating LLNL on October 1, 2007.

Nuclear Material Packaging: On May 17, 2007, the LSO manager requested that LLNL develop a resource-loaded schedule and funding plan to implement the draft DOE M 441.1-1, *Nuclear Material Packaging Manual*. Implementation of this manual at LLNL is intended to satisfy Board Recommendation 2005-1, *Nuclear Material Packaging*. Some packaging configurations used at LLNL nuclear facilities are known to be non-compliant with the intent of the manual (e.g., slip-lid cans). LLNL is required to provide the requested information to LSO no later than June 15, 2007.

Nuclear Safety Delegations of Authority: On May 8, 2007, in response to Board Recommendation 2004-1, *Oversight of Complex, High Hazard Nuclear Operations*, the NNSA Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs approved the LSO delegation of nuclear safety authorities. Collectively, the site manager and two deputies were granted certain nuclear safety authorities in the areas of authorization basis, startup and restart of nuclear facilities, and integrated safety management systems (approval of LLNL ISMS descriptions). The primary technical justification for the NNSA approval appears to be the Senior Technical Safety Manager (STSM) qualifications of both the technical and the programmatic deputies. Concurrence of one of the deputies is required as a compensatory measure since the LSO manager is not STSM qualified.