

HSS Independent Activity Report - Rev. 1**Report Number:** HIAR LANL-2012-08-16**Site:** Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)**Subject:** Office of Enforcement and Oversight's Office of Safety and Emergency Management Evaluations Activity Report for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Visit and Site Lead Planning Activities at the Los Alamos National Laboratory**Dates of Activity :** 08/14/2012 – 08/16/2012**Report Preparer:** Robert Freeman**Activity Description/Purpose:**

The purpose of this Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS) activity was to maintain site operational awareness of key nuclear safety performance areas of interest to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB), monitor ongoing site oversight and planning activities for Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) nuclear facilities, and identify and initiate coordination of future HSS oversight activities at the site.

Result:

The HSS LANL site lead and the HSS Director, Office of Enforcement and Oversight attended key meetings that were held as part of the August 14-16, 2012, DNFSB visit to LANL. These meetings emphasized current site nuclear safety concerns and the status of ongoing nuclear construction projects of interest to the Board and its staff. Areas of interest to HSS that were discussed included: status of analyses to quantify the plutonium facility's seismic performance; impact of the deferral of the chemistry and metallurgy research (CMR) replacement facility and planned actions to cease programmatic activities in the existing CMR facility; status of transuranic (TRU) operations, in particular, safety basis improvements and corrective actions to address recent technical safety requirement violations; status of startup activities and safety basis improvements for the weapons engineering tritium facility (WETF); and status of nuclear facility design and construction projects for the TRU waste and radioactive liquid waste treatment facilities. The Board's key concerns focused on the status and progress of actions to evaluate seismic performance at the plutonium facility, including a need for more transparency to facilitate the Board staff's independent review. In a separate meeting, the Los Alamos Site Office (LASO) Manager and his senior staff provided their perspectives on the site's nuclear safety performance and committed to strengthen the transparency of ongoing seismic evaluations being performed by the contractor.

In addition, the HSS LANL site lead held separate meetings with selected LASO and LANL representatives on current and future HSS oversight priorities for nuclear safety, in particular for nuclear construction projects and HSS targeted review areas. Several areas were tentatively identified, including continued focus on implementation of LANL's independent verification review process, increased focus on restart activities for WETF, and implementation of the LANL fire protection program. At the time of the site visit, the LASO Safety Engineering Team (SET) Leader was in the process of developing SET strategy and activities for oversight of the Laboratory's nuclear facility safety system performance for FY 2013, a continued priority area for targeted review by HSS. Although it was premature to coordinate HSS and LASO activities at the time of the visit, the site lead suggested increasing the focus on the adequacy and control of design calculations for the nuclear facility safety basis as part of SET activities. It was agreed that a follow-on planning meeting and further discussions would take place to coordinate HSS activities once LASO has finalized its oversight priorities and defined the needed activities.

The site lead's initial meeting with the TRU Waste Federal Project Director briefly covered some of the activities performed and lessons learned from HSS oversight of the CMR replacement facility project, and potential areas for future HSS oversight of the project. It was decided that further discussions are needed to better define and integrate HSS activities based on the current status of the project. In the immediate future, the site lead will participate in follow-up discussions.

| HSS Participants | References |
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| 1. Robert Freeman, LANL Site Lead | Agenda – Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Visit at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, August 14-15, 2012 |
| 2. John Boulden, Director, Office of Enforcement and Oversight | |
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| Were there any items for HSS follow up? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| <p>HSS Follow Up Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct follow-up discussions to define and integrate HSS activities for oversight of LANL nuclear safety system performance and TRU Waste Facility in the next several weeks. | |