



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 19, 2017

Dr. Charles F. McMillan, President
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Los Alamos National Laboratory
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Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545-1663

WEL-2017-01

Dear Dr. McMillan:

The Office of Enterprise Assessments' Office of Enforcement has completed an evaluation into three events involving work planning and control deficiencies reported in the Department of Energy's (DOE) Occurrence Reporting and Processing System and Noncompliance Tracking System, as listed below. Based on this evaluation, the Office of Enforcement identified concerns that warrant continued management attention by Los Alamos National Security, LLC, (LANS).

- NA--LASO-LANL-BOP-2016-0001 - *Subcontractor Work Stopped Due to Inadequate Hazard Controls for UPS Replacement.* A subcontractor performed the initial part of a multiphase project replacing an uninterruptible power supply system while working with a safety plan and an integrated work document that inadequately identified the potential electrical hazards and the required controls. The deficiencies were only identified at the end of the initial phase of the work during a chance discussion between a subcontractor employee/student and the LANS Chief Electrical Safety Officer, at a training class.
- NA--LASO-LANL-FIRNGHELAB-2016-0004 - *Near Miss; Rigging Straps Break during Hoisting Activity at TA-49.* A hoisting and rigging crew was performing a move of a 30-ton railroad boxcar when two flat nylon rigging slings broke, dropping the load about two feet. When the boxcar fell, it struck the end of a railroad tie, which then hit an employee on the forearm, chest, and chin. At least one of the two slings, which were not properly protected with abrasion pads, was likely abraded and cut by angle iron on the boxcar's side.
- NA--LASO-LANL-BOP-2016-0004 - *Near Miss to an Occupational Injury: Asphalt Roller Tipped Over on its Side during Repaving Activities.* An asphalt roller, operated by a subcontractor without an assessment of potential hazards in the roadway, tipped over while traveling in reverse, when the roller



approached too close to the edge of the road, encountered a soft portion, and tipped onto its side.

These three events suggest the need for continued attention to work planning and control, particularly with regard to effective hazard identification during job planning, document review by appropriate subject matter experts, and completion of required safety and health training. Furthermore, in at least one event, job controls were not adequate to address hazard prevention and abatement, and work was not paused or stopped when the potential hazards could not be adequately assessed.

Additionally, in at least one instance, LANS did not initially recognize the significance of the event, and conducted a comprehensive fact finding only after inquiries by the DOE Office of Enforcement, in coordination with the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). This situation suggests that LANS has not fully internalized the “lessons learned” from prior events, including those that resulted in a DOE enforcement outcome, in order to prevent recurrences of safety and health related injuries. It is noted that two of the events were discussed in detail in the Laboratory’s “Mirror,” which is a quarterly publication used to communicate lessons learned from operational events.

The Office of Enforcement has elected to issue this Enforcement Letter to convey concerns with the LANS’ process to ensure adequate hazard identification, assessment, prevention, and abatement. Issuance of this Enforcement Letter reflects DOE’s decision to not pursue further enforcement activity at this time in recognition of the progress LANS has made and observed by Los Alamos Field Office. In coordination with NNSA, the Office of Enforcement will continue to monitor LANS’ efforts to maintain a safe workplace.

This letter imposes no requirements on LANS and no response is required. If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 903-7707, or your staff may contact Dr. Anthony Pierpoint, Director, Office of Worker Safety and Health Enforcement, at (301) 903-0100.

Sincerely,



Steven C. Simonson
Director
Office of Enforcement
Office of Enterprise Assessments

cc: Kim Davis Lebak, NA-LA
Rachael Schroeder, LANS