



SECURITY & SAFEGUARDS DIVISION
Nuclear Material Control & Accountability Group
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop P538
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
(505) 667-7756 / FAX: (505) 665-9865

Date: June 20, 2008
Refer to: SAFE-4:08-064

Los Alamos Site Office
Attn: Lee LeDoux
Security Management Team
528 35th Street
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Thru: Joel D. Williams, Safeguards Division Leader

SUBJECT: TA-55 Physical Inventory Variance (U)

Attached you will find the TA-55 Physical Inventory variance request. The variance submitted defines a change to the work performed for the TA-55 semi annual physical inventory for MBA 700.

Sincerely,

Diane Otero-Bell
SAFE-4 Group Leader

DOB:MEL:mel

Attachment

Distribution:

Paul Sowa, ADSS, MS G729
Joel Williams, SAFE-DO, MS-G729
Diane Otero-Bell, SAFE-4, MS-G735
SAFE-4 TA-55 Deployed Personnel
SAFE-4 Group File

08 JUN 23 PM 1:53



To/MS: Wayne Punjack, SAFE-4, G735
Thru/MS: Anthony Drypolcher, PMT-3, E513
From/MS: Chastity Kolar, PMT-3, E513 *CHK*
Phone/Fax: 7-3542/Fax 5-6160
Symbol: PMT-3-08-44
Date: June 4, 2008

memorandum

Nuclear Materials Technology Division

Variance Request for Account 700 Semi-Annual Inventory

Since the last PF4 vault MC&A inventory in June of 2007, approximately 5933 individual items have been inventoried. Therefore, the Nuclear Material Management Group (PMT-3) is requesting a variance for the semi-annual statistical inventory in the PF-4 Vault MBA (account 700) scheduled for June of 2008. Currently, the handling of material in the PF-4 vault has been curtailed until the appropriate criticality controls have been implemented. Only five (5) rooms have been completely released and are now accessible for shelving and retrieving material. The remaining eight (8) rooms and the corridor are still under material handling restrictions. These eight (8) remaining room may not be released in time for the semi-annual statistical inventory for account 700 scheduled this month.

The basis for this variance request is two-fold. First, certain operations have been granted exemptions to the criticality pause. When these operations have their vault users enter the vault to retrieve and/or shelve their items they are required to complete an inventory of the location visited. This inventory is performed under two-person rule in which items are visually inspected to verify the material type, the lot identification number, the special nuclear material value and the tamper-indicating device of each container housed in a storage location. The two users verify this information against a current MASS location printout. After completion of the inventory, the two users sign the MASS location printout which is retained in the Accountability Office (SAFE-4) at TA-55. Second, containers stored in the PF-4 vault require double access, meaning it takes two individuals with different combinations to access the main door and two trained and certified users to access the badge reader controlled locked door to enter into the vault.

In addition to the concerns surrounding the criticality safety basis in the vault, the performance of this semi-annual statistical inventory creates concerns regarding radiation dose to workers. It is anticipated that it would take several teams of four (4) individuals to complete this activity in respirators. Each worker would receive approximately 100 m/Rem dose.

Approvals:


Sandra Wilson, SAFE-4, MC&A Manager 6/12/08 Date

08 JUN 23 PM 1:54

Mary Esther Punjak 6/19/08
Mary Esther, SAFE-4, PIO Date

Diane Otero-Bell 6-19-08
Wayne Punjak, SAFE-4, Group Leader Date

Diane Otero-Bell ADSS/Program Manager
SAFE-4 Group Leader

Cc: S. Schreiber, PMT-DO, E500
C. Armitage, TA-55, E583

08 JUN 23 PM 1:54