



Update for March 2005 CUCSA Meeting

During the first two months of 2005, Los Alamos National Laboratory focused on three critical priorities: completing the Laboratory's resumption efforts and Classified Removable Electronic Media (CREM) reorganization; launching a new, behavior-based safety program; and protecting the world-class science that forms this Laboratory's foundation.

The Laboratory made notable progress on all three endeavors. As of January 28, the Laboratory's CREM reorganization was 100% complete. All CREM inventory has been verified and validated, and all of the new Classified Media Libraries have received approval from Deputy Energy Secretary Kyle McSlarrow. These accomplishments are doubly remarkable given the magnitude and speed of the CREM effort. Moreover, as of January 31, the Resumption Review Board had granted resumption approval to 12 out of the remaining 18 risk-level 3 (or high-risk) activities; all Laboratory activities have now either resumed operations or are operating under a level 0 essential status designation.

Regarding safety, on February 15, Laboratory Director Pete Nanos personally launched the new Behavioral Excellence Initiative. Modeled on DuPont's Safety Training and Observation Program (STOP), this initiative stresses that all employees are responsible for their own safety, their own safe behaviors, and the safety of those around them. The program will proceed in a cascading fashion from supervisors to employees; topics will include the behavioral-observation process; how to assess personal protective equipment, tools and equipment, procedures and standards; how to conduct a safety audit as part of a weekly management walk-around; and how to apply the STOP program for scientists.

Last, maintaining the quality of science remains a pivotal Laboratory objective. As Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman underscored on his February 25 visit to Los Alamos, this institution's unique value lies in producing world-class science that helps protect America. World-class science is this Laboratory's irreplaceable contribution, and it's why all of our institutional objectives – from achieving 90% outstanding Appendix F ratings to building a business model for science – have science as their ultimate benefit.

Especially in this time of change, Los Alamos appreciates the University of California's support. As Director Nanos told employees in a recent all-hands mail, the Laboratory that suspended operations, identified 3,000 elements of operational risk, corrected over 300 of the most serious elements, and restarted in six months, is a Laboratory capable of meeting any challenge. We appreciate the University of California's involvement as Los Alamos faces the challenges and opportunities offered by the year ahead.