Update for December 2004 CUCSA Meeting

Los Alamos National Laboratory focused on three areas: this fall: addressing the classified removable electronic media (CREM) incident while completing the Laboratory's internal and external CREM inventory validations; working towards a staggered, group-by-group resumption of activities; and operating in a safe, secure and compliant manner while protecting the world-class science that forms this Laboratory's foundation.

The Laboratory made notable progress in all three endeavors. As of January 12, 100% of all risk-level 1 (low-risk) and 2 (moderate-risk) activities had resumed operations; furthermore, the Resumption Review Board had approved 100% of all management self-assessments, and 50% of all laboratory readiness reviews, for risk-level 3 (high-risk) activities.

Additionally, as of January 12, Deputy Energy Scretary Kyle McSlarrow had approved 16 of the Laboratory's new classified media libraries. Along with satellite locations, this reduces the number of sites housing CREM by 95%, from 89 buildings with 733 rooms to 29 buildings with 37 rooms.

Despite our tumultuous summer and fall, this Laboratory continues to provide "the world's greatest science protecting America." Nothing better illustrates that commitment than the three Laboratory scientists selected as E.O. Lawrence Award recipients: Bette Korber of Theoretical Biology and Biophysics (T-10), Fred Mortensen of Thermonuclear Applications (X-2), and Greg Swift of Condensed Matter and Thermal Physics (MST-10). The Department of Energy established the prestigious E.O. Lawrence Award in 1959 to honor exceptional contributions to the development, use or control of nuclear energy. We couldn't be prouder of our three deserving recipients!

As painful and difficult as the suspension and resumption of operations have been, they enabled us to cross a historical watershed. Today the Laboratory is in a remarkably stronger, more powerful position than ever before. We have assessed risks, identified problems, and created an evidentiary due-diligence file outlining existing risks and problems. Furthermore, we have delineated a short list of near-and-present risk issues to address prior to resumption, and created a longer list of post-resumption, long-term safety and security issues to begin negotiating with the Department of Energy.

Especially in this time of crisis, Los Alamos appreciates the University of California's support. The University's involvement is essential as we enter 2005 with a continued focus on safety, security and compliance, and with a renewed commitment to national security and science. Last year the Laboratory's employees performed exceptionally well under extremely adverse circumstances; this year we hope to perform even better in a much-improved environment.