

Fact Sheet

NNSA issues Preliminary Notice of Violation to Los Alamos National Security, LLC, for Worker Safety and Health Violations

On October 18, 2010, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) issued a Preliminary Notice of Violation (PNOV) to Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS), for violations of Department of Energy's (DOE) worker safety and health program regulations. LANS is the operating contractor of NNSA's Los Alamos National Laboratory, a multidisciplinary research facility located in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

The PNOV cites four violations of DOE regulations governing electrical safety-related work practices and procedures. The violations are associated with the electrical shock event that occurred in building 300 at Technical Area 16 at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) on March 20, 2009. A LANL employee received a potentially fatal electric shock while working on a 3,570-volt direct current electronic detonator in a trainer device that resulted in a first-degree burn on a finger and second-degree burns on a thumb, finger and abdomen.

NNSA cited LANS for failures to comply with 10 C.F.R. Part 851, *Worker Safety and Health Program*. The violations involve deficiencies in identifying and controlling worker exposures to electrical hazards, providing required safety training in work practices and procedures, and implementing electrical safety program requirements. NNSA is issuing a Preliminary Notice of Violation to LANS with three Severity Level I violations and one Severity Level II violation with a proposed total civil penalty of \$131,250.

The Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 authorizes the Department to take regulatory actions against contractors for violations of its worker safety and health requirements under 10 C.F.R. Part 851. DOE's Enforcement Program encourages contractors to identify and correct worker safety and health deficiencies at an early stage, before they contribute to or result in more serious events.

Additional details on this and other enforcement actions are available on the Internet at www.hss.doe.gov/enforce.