

National Nuclear Security Administration Fact Sheet

Preliminary Notice of Violation: Worker Safety and Health Violations at Sandia National Laboratories

On November 17, 2015, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) issued a Preliminary Notice of Violation (PNOV) to Sandia Corporation (Sandia) for violations of Department of Energy (DOE) worker safety and health requirements. Sandia is the management and operating contractor for NNSA's Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) located in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The PNOV cites Sandia for deficiencies in implementation of worker safety and health program requirements established at 10 C.F.R. Part 851, *Worker Safety and Health Program*, associated with a lithium ion battery fire and an unexpected detonator initiation at SNL. NNSA identified four Severity Level I violations and two Severity Level II violations in the areas of:

(1) management responsibilities, (2) hazard identification and assessment, (3) hazard prevention and abatement, (4) emergency response, (5) training and information, and (6) recordkeeping and reporting.

In fiscal year 2014, NNSA withheld fee from Sandia in the amount of \$686,000 for work planning and control deficiencies, which are similar to the worker safety and health program implementation violations identified during DOE's investigation, and the subject of this PNOV. Consequently and in accordance with Part 851, NNSA proposed no civil penalty.

Section 234C of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, authorizes the NNSA to take regulatory actions under 10 C.F.R. Part 851 against NNSA contractors for violations of worker safety and health requirements. DOE's enforcement program encourages Departmental 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 DOE website at <http://energy.gov/ea/services/enforcement>.