

TA-55 24/7 shift information



The Plutonium Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory at dusk.

Los Alamos Laboratory has begun the next phase of 24-hour operations in the Plutonium Facility.

Starting in April 2025, additional rotating shifts were implemented at TA-55 on the weekends to achieve 24-7 operations in support of the necessary upgrades to the Plutonium Facility (PF-4) for the plutonium pit mission.

Why does the Lab need 24-hour operations?

The Lab's plutonium pit production mission brings unique challenges. Pit production involves starting and steadily increasing the production of war reserve pits while simultaneously updating PF-4 with equipment that will increase reliability for the mission. The main driver for the 24/7 shift is to ensure the equipment required for the pit mission is installed to support production needs.

A small percentage of employees at PF-4 have been working around the clock since August 2024. As the mission advances, we need to continue maximizing our operational time to support work.

This is a step to mature the Laboratory as a production agency, taking a cue from the commercial nuclear industry and other NNSA production sites that have long used 24/7 operations.

When will the shifts operate?

Initial shifts were implemented on April 7, 2025 in a multi-phase approach, wherein the initial phases were the previous implementation of the 24/4 schedule (24 hours a day, Monday-Thursday).

Shift times are currently set as such:

A shift	Day	4 x 10 hrs.	Tues. – Fri.	6am – 4:30pm
B shift	Night	4 x 10 hrs.	Tues. – Fri.	5pm – 3:30am
C shift	Day	4 x 10 hrs.	Fri. – Mon.	6am – 4:30pm
D shift	Night	4 x 10 hrs.	Fri. – Mon.	5pm – 3:30am

The schedule includes designated supervisory oversight for 12-hour shifts with a 30-minute overlap.

Who will work on the 24/7 shifts?

In fiscal year 2025, approximately 400 existing employees that support TA-55 operations will move to shift work. Division leaders will be working with their teams to fill these roles while hiring continues.

We're here to help

Lab leadership understands that this is a big change and will be offering incentives and resources for employees as we move to a larger percentage of shift work in the coming years.

Incentives include:

- Shift differential pay
- Extended work week pay for supervisory staff
- Preferential parking areas