



LIGO LABORATORY OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT TEAM

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: 26 March 2020
TO: Operations personnel and collaborators
FROM: Fred Raab (for the Operations Management Team)
SUBJECT: LIGO ending observing operations
Refer to: LIGO-L2000133

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the exponentially increasing number of infected individuals and the daily changes in regulatory responses by local, state and federal governments, on 23-Mar-2020 LIGO began the process to transition the observatories from observing mode in Phase 2 (see L2000119 for explanation) to Phase 3, preservation and sustainment mode. Yesterday, OMT reviewed the status of this transition at both observatories.

Following discussion between the LIGO Operations Management Team and the LIGO run coordinators, OMT decided to adopt the proposal of the Hanford and Livingston observatory heads that observation mode operation at the observatories will end on Friday Mar 27th at 17:00 UTC (12 pm Central time, 10 am Pacific time). At LHO only, PEM injections, interferometer locking and associated technical data collection to support these activities will continue over the weekend, until 8 am Pacific time, Monday March 30th, at the latest. Phase 3 activities to secure the detector, the vacuum and the site will begin on Monday March 30th at 8 am local time at both observatories. It is unknown at this time when observing mode operation may resume. A further memo will be issued when the pandemic recovery allows transitioning out of Phase 3.

We believe this path of action is the best we can pursue to minimize risk to our staff, to the public and to our science in these trying times.

Cc:

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