

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 6, 2019

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: B. Caleca and P. Fox, Hanford Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending December 6, 2019

Hanford Site: DOE awarded the new Hanford Mission Essential Services Contract (HMESC) to Hanford Mission Integration Solutions LLC (HMIS). The company is owned by Leidos, Centerra Group, and Parsons Government Services, Inc. The HMESC will replace the current Mission Support Contract which is held by Mission Support Alliance LLC, a company owned by Leidos and Centerra Group. The new contract is one of the four large prime contracts that enable cleanup work on Hanford site. Under the contract, HMIS will provide security and emergency services, maintain infrastructure and vital services such as water and power distribution systems and roads, and provide other mission essential integration and support for Hanford site. DOE will also task HMIS to perform infrastructure upgrades to support operation of the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant under the contract.

As follow-up to the recent power outage (see 11/29/2019 report), Electrical Utilities (EU) contractor personnel have performed an extent of condition on the site distribution system to determine if there are any other cases where another outage could occur due to a similar condition. Additionally, they have implemented a set of compensatory administrative measures to limit the potential for switching operations that could result in an outage. Lastly, they have increased the size of the undersized fuses that opened and caused the outage.

Building 324: Following the contractor's action to stop radiological work within Building 324 (See 11/22/19 report), the contractor's resumption team has been conducting interviews of project personnel at all levels, begun reviewing documents, and began performing a causal analysis this week. In addition, an independent radiological control team has begun requesting documents and plans to interview project staff next week as part of its independent effort.

Central Plateau Remediation: Contractor management held a critique to discover facts related an operator's concern regarding the use of the vehicle born detector system that is used to perform radiological screening surveys of roads, parking lots, and large open areas. The system is designed and calibrated to identify areas of potential contamination, which are then surveyed using standard equipment and methods to fully characterize any contamination in the area of interest. The operator determined that the documentation used to support operation of the vehicles and detector system could not be followed as written and requested that work using the system stop until the issue is resolved. The critique revealed that, although a guidance document was developed to support operation of the system, no procedural documents were developed when the contractor transitioned to a new detection system in 2016. Consequently, operators were relying heavily on skill-of-the-craft for performance of their work tasks using the systems. Additionally, although substantial emphasis was placed on providing on-the-job training for new operators, the training program was not formalized and depended heavily on the knowledge of a single individual. Contractor management will develop a set of corrective actions to resolve the issue and perform an extent of condition evaluation to determine if this issue exists in other areas of performance within the group.