

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 3, 2020

**TO:** Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Z. C. McCabe, Resident Inspectors  
**SUBJECT:** Savannah River Site Activity Report for Week Ending April 3, 2020

**COVID-19:** Currently, there are three site employees with confirmed cases of COVID-19. The Governor of South Carolina issued an executive order closing non-essential businesses effective April 1. The Governor of Georgia issued an executive order requiring all residents of the state to shelter in place unless they are conducting essential services or are part of the workforce for critical infrastructure effective April 3. Since approximately one third of the SRS workforce lives in Georgia, the Savannah River Site will transition to Essential Mission Critical Operations Friday evening. This mode is also referred to as Continuity Essential and limits personnel to performing duties directly supporting SRS primary mission essential functions, mission essential functions, or essential supporting activities such as tritium operations and safe and secure storage in K- and L-Areas. This status will result in less than 2500 employees working at SRS. Ongoing initiatives include assessing the inventory and anticipated usage of personal protective equipment, tracking the locations of positive cases at SRS, and developing protocols for the eventual return to work. Facility personnel have also been reviewing upcoming Technical Safety Requirement surveillances and maintenance in light of anticipated staffing levels.

Non-essential training has been cancelled. A limited amount of training is being performed with class sizes limited to nine students and an instructor. Because of the number of workers teleworking and the few instructors onsite, DOE-SR issued a letter to the site contractors granting them permission to extend all non-regulatory training for 120 days. This affects approximately 4500 qualifications that were set to expire in April. This extension also applies to emergency response organization training. Meanwhile, site personnel are pursuing options for regulatory-driven training.

SRR conducted limited operations at their facilities and suspended construction of Salt Disposal Unit 7. Parsons is terminating the work they had been performing in the Salt Waste Processing Facility dark cells. SRNS has been ramping down operations and increasing telework this week although full tritium operations continue.

**SRNS Work Planning and Control:** SRNS has self-identified work planning and control as a recurring issue over the past year. Additionally, in February DOE-SR sent a letter of concern to SRNS regarding the continued work planning and control shortcomings. SRNS personnel have recently completed a common cause analysis on 33 events and identified four common causes. The first common cause included a weakness in the implementation and understanding of expectations for task previews. As such, SRNS personnel are planning to develop a series of training videos to provide personnel more guidance on the appropriate way to complete a task preview as well as perform targeted management field observations on task previews. There are several similarities between this issue and the issues at the Savannah River National Laboratory in April 2019 as noted in the report. Additionally, two of the other common causes were related to inadequate technical work documents and inadequate subject matter expert reviews. SRNS personnel determined that the fourth common cause was inadequate human performance.