

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 31, 2020

**TO:** Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director  
**FROM:** B. Caleca and P. Fox, Hanford Resident Inspectors  
**SUBJECT:** Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending July 31, 2020

**Solid Waste Operations Complex (SWOC):** A resident inspector observed a Senior Review Board (SRB) held by DOE to review the Evaluation of the Safety of the Situation (ESS) submitted by the contractor for SWOC facilities (See 7/2/2020 report). This ESS analyzed the impacts of the positive Unreviewed Safety Question (USQ) determination regarding the contractor's use of median instead of mean material-at-risk (MAR) values for certain accidents involving multiple waste drums as identified in a safety basis review performed by DOE. Several appendices to the ESS also reviewed the other observations in the DOE assessment, though without the same level of detail. The SRB determined that although the evaluation of the specific USQ was adequate, the contractor's evaluation of the three other DOE issues, as presented in the appendices of the ESS, were inadequate to support disposition of the issues. Additionally, the SRB determined that the contractor should modify its current timely order for SWOC facilities to expand restrictions on waste handling operations and vehicle movement near waste while these other three issues are re-evaluated.

**Tank Farms:** While performing routine walk downs to validate tank dome load configurations in AX Farm, contractor engineers discovered several berms that were not recorded in the dome load log. An extent of condition determined that some of the missing configurations may have existed for over ten years and may affect dome loading on three of the four tanks in AX Farm. Additionally, they determined that the additional loads may challenge dome loading limits on two of the tanks. Pending the completion of a more complete evaluation, the Tank Farm Operations Contractor has limited access to the affected areas and has prohibited the placement of any additional loads on AX Farm tank domes.

**Hanford Site:** DOE and site contractors remain in the first phase of their COVID-19 pandemic response resumption plans. Transition to phase 2 will not occur until DOE determines that the action will not jeopardize workforce, community, or environmental safety. However, some work activities that were originally assigned in phase 2 because they were not urgent, had lower priority, or challenged personal protective equipment supplies are, because of extended phase 1 duration, becoming more urgent. DOE has determined that some of these activities are necessary and can be accomplished safely in phase 1. Consequently, DOE has added an additional sub-phase to their phase 1 strategy to support this work. Under the revised strategy, the contractor plans will open additional work sites and return more workers to the site. Additionally, DOE is increasing their onsite oversight staffing in order to monitor conditions and ensure safe accomplishment of work. Individuals who can work remotely remain in a telework status. Site leadership continues to evaluate state and regional data and trends, and consult with regional health and municipal authorities prior to implementing any planned onsite workforce increases.

After performing a competitive recruitment, DOE EM announced that Brian Vance was selected and will continue as manager for both ORP and RL. Mr. Vance had been serving under a limited appointment to the manager position for both Hanford Site DOE offices.