

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 1, 2021

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: B. Caleca and P. Fox, Hanford Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending January 1, 2021

Tank Farms: After performing maintenance to repair the AX-104 slurry pump selector switch (see 12/25/2020 report), the Tank Farm Operations Contractor (TOC) was able to restart retrieval operations. This week, additional recirculation runs were performed while TOC personnel wait for replacement parts that will resolve remaining equipment issues and increase the reliability of the slurry pump system. While this increases the chance of another unplanned shutdown, this type of failure does not pose any safety hazard or risk to retrieval operations.

DOE announced this week that it has cancelled its solicitation for the Tank Closure Contract (TCC), stating it was no longer beneficial for the site's mission. Instead, the current Tank Operations Contract, which was previously extended to September 30, 2021, will remain in effect while DOE develops an integrated contract that combines direct feed low activity waste and tank farm operations.

222-S Laboratory: DOE formally announced that the 100 day contract transition period for the 222-S Laboratory will begin on January 5, 2021. The new contract, which was awarded to Hanford Laboratory Management and Integration (HLMI), includes services provided under the current Laboratory Analysis and Testing Services Contract, held by Wastren Advantage, Inc., and the laboratory operations work scope from the Tank Operations Contract, held by Washington River Protection Solutions. The change will shift responsibility for maintaining the laboratory's safety basis documentation from the TOC to HLMI.

Aging Structures Stabilization: As of this week, approximately 74% of the volume of the Z-9 crib has been filled with grout. Central Plateau Risk Management personnel have switched their grout conveyance to a different riser to top off the remaining volume. The work package for completing Z-361 grouting was also finalized, and grouting is expected to only take a single day due to the small volume of grout required. Development of a work package to grout the Z-2 crib is still underway and project personnel intend to be finished with stabilization of the three structures early in 2021.

Soil and Groundwater (S&G): During well drilling operations, a forklift operator moving a tip dumpster after emptying it into a roll on, roll off container backed into a table, collapsing it. A box of well samples was damaged, but the samples did not spill onto the ground and were recovered. No personnel were injured during the event. During a critique of the incident, the lack of a spotter, the lack of visibility of the white table and box with snow on the ground, issues with the tip dumpster, and a change in the approach path to and from the container were noted as contributors to the event. The critique also correctly noted that workers continued their activities until the end of the day before making proper notifications. As a result, contrary to requirements, the event scene was not preserved. This hindered the contractor's ability to accurately reconstruct the event.