

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 11, 2021

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: Z. C. McCabe Resident Inspector
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Activity Report for Week Ending June 11, 2021

Staff Activity: David Campbell of the Board's technical staff was on site this week for cognizant engineer familiarization and resident inspector augmentation. Mr. Campbell walked down the Salt Waste Processing Facility, Defense Waste Processing Facility, K-Area Complex, Saltstone Disposal Unit 7, and H-Area Tank Farms. He also met with representatives from DOE-SR, SRNS and SRR.

Emergency Preparedness: Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) personnel conducted an emergency preparedness drill, with full participation from the SRNL Emergency Response Organization (SRNL-ERO). The SRS Emergency Response Organization (SRS-ERO), Fire Department, and Protective Force were all limited participants. The scenario was a forklift truck accident resulting in a vehicle fire, injured and contaminated personnel, and release of radioactive material from a damaged 9975 container that was being carried by the forklift. Drill controllers noted several opportunities for improvement in the areas of command and control, incident scene coordination, and communication. The resident inspector and member of the Board's staff observed the drill from the control room and incident scene and largely agreed with the controller organization's observations.

Tritium Extraction Facility (TEF): SRNS personnel conducted a fact finding related to last week's issue with the TEF extraction electronic standard operating procedure (see 6/4/2021 report). Contributing Factors were identified related to procedure change control, employee experience with large scope procedure changes, and schedule pressure to implement procedure changes. In this case, it was not recognized that a wording change in the procedure resulted in a change in logic for the automation process. As a result, the automation was not properly updated, and the test was not properly scoped prior to loading into the production environment. Corrective actions include development of lessons learned briefings for personnel to improve change control implementation and review/updates to computer modification tracker installation procedures.

Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE): SRTE personnel held a meeting to review and ultimately approve the latest revision to their Performance Improvement and Sustainability Plan. The plan addressed the common causes identified related to the recent series of conduct of operations issues within SRTE (see 5/15/2021 report) and a broader review of SRTE contractor assurance data. Overall, the plan includes dozens of corrective actions that touch a wide variety of areas including operational discipline, environment/morale/communication, staffing development, conduct of maintenance, task readiness, quality of work documents, training, and radiological protection.