

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 16, 2021

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: B. Caleca and P. Fox, Hanford Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending July 16, 2021

DNFSB Staff Activity: P. Meyer arrived onsite for his assignment as the third Hanford Site resident inspector.

Tank Farms: The contractor's corrective action review board (CARB) met to evaluate revisions to a previously rejected Apparent Cause Analysis (ACA) that was performed to identify the cause of an insulation interference issue resulting in a positive unreviewed safety question determination (see 7/9/2021 report). The revised analysis determined that the Functions and Requirements Evaluation Document (FRED) supporting the system design did not include a failure mode that considered an interference which could impede the closure of a valve. Consequently, the design did not include provisions for preventing such an interference. To address the revised cause, the set of corrective actions from the first CARB was modified to include a requirement for Engineering to evaluate whether the new failure mode should be added to the FRED. Although the corrective actions address the existing case, they will not prevent future incidents related to FRED development. The CARB approved the ACA.

242-A Evaporator: The DOE Senior Review Board met to evaluate a revised strategy for addressing fire and seismic hazard safety issues identified by the Board in 2014. The revised approach proposes the use of specific administrative controls as the primary method for preventing the postulated design basis accidents in lieu of the engineered controls previously communicated to the Board in 2015 (see 1/31/20 and 3/13/20 reports). The SRB recommended that the Safety Basis Approval Authority approve the revised strategy.

Hanford Site: The Tri-Party Agreement agencies (DOE, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology)) held a public workshop on Hanford Site Cleanup priorities. This event supports a 30-day comment period to collect public feedback regarding Hanford Site cleanup priorities as part of the FY23 budget development process. During the meeting, DOE provided an overview of ongoing projects, as well as the current budget (FY21) and the President's proposed budget to Congress for FY22. EPA and Ecology representatives provided their perspective regarding the ongoing process. The question and answer period following the presentations was contentious. Members of the public expressed disappointment at the level of detail provided by the brief, the short amount of time to provide comments, and the potential for DOE to reclassify some high-level waste as low-level. The last concern extended into the ongoing waste incidental to reprocessing evaluation that supports closure of C-Tank Farm.

Building 324: A resident inspector observed two in progress ALARA reviews conducted by contractor personnel. The first addressed a discovery of contamination that voided a radiological work permit (RWP) and the second addressed a worker concern that an RWP lacked clarity regarding when hoods were required for contamination area dress. Responses for both events were appropriate. Information obtained during the ALARA review indicated that workers were engaged and had a questioning attitude about routine work and document management. As a result, contractor management identified improvements in the maintenance of work instructions.