

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 3, 2021

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: B. Caleca, P. Fox, and P. Meyer, Hanford Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending December 3, 2021

DNFSB Staff Activity: The resident inspectors and other members of the technical staff participated in a meeting held by the DOE Chief of Nuclear Safety with representatives from DOE ORP and the Tank Operations Contractor (TOC) to discuss a proposed strategy for addressing fire and seismic hazards (see 7/30/21 report) at the 242-A evaporator facility. The discussions focused on improving effectiveness and documentation of the proposed strategy.

Tank Operations Contract: DOE approved the contractor's most recent Startup Notification Report (SNR). The report indicates that three startups are planned over the next year. The first startup is the Tank Side Cesium Removal (TSCR) system. Both the contractor and DOE have completed the required readiness assessments (see 9/3/2021 and 10/8/2021 reports). The TOC is expected to report next week that they have completed prestart actions and are ready to startup. The Energy System Acquisition Advisory Board (ESAAB) is currently scheduled to meet the following week to consider approval for the start of operations (critical decision 4A). Based on the schedule and subject to the ESAAB decision, TSCR startup is expected to occur in January. The SNR also indicates that DOE will conduct an Operational Readiness Review (ORR) at the Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF). The ORR will confirm that the contractor has adequately accomplished actions necessary to support a hazard category upgrade for the LERF from a radiological facility to a hazard category 3 facility. The hazard category upgrade is expected to complete in August 2022 and is necessary to support operation of the Waste Treatment Plant Low Activity Waste Facility in early 2023. The final activity noted in the SNR is restart of the 242-A evaporator facility which has been shut down since 2018 to support replacement of associated waste transfer lines and other facility upgrades. A readiness assessment will be used to confirm that the facility is ready to start operations in early 2023. The startup authority for all three events is the ORP Deputy Manager.

West Area Remediation Project (WARP): Contractor personnel completed down-posting the remaining high contamination area (HCA) in the former Plutonium Finishing Plant work control area. Work to remove equipment and containers from this maintenance area was paused after contamination was revealed after moving a piece of equipment. Workers up-posted the area around the contamination to an HCA before exiting. WARP personnel held an in progress ALARA review to discuss the event and are developing a plan to remove the contamination.

Liquid Effluent Retention Facility: DOE held a public meeting to discuss a dangerous waste permit modification that is necessary to implement new procedures that support waste code decontamination of basins, tanks, and other equipment at the LERF and Effluent Treatment Facility (ETF). The decontamination process would allow use of the systems at LERF and ETF to process different waste code streams while still maintaining required segregation of different waste codes. Questions from members of the public focused on better understanding the nature of the action and how it would affect the processing of the ETF and LERF waste streams.