

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 10, 2023

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: B. Caleca, P. Fox, N. Huntington, and P. Meyer, Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending March 10, 2023

Board Activity: Vice Chairman T. Summers was on Hanford site this week for site familiarization and to meet with DOE and site contractor managers. He was accompanied by the Associate Technical Director for Field Operations, M. Sautman, the resident inspectors, and R. Csillag, B. Sharpless, and B. Saltus from the headquarters staff. While in the field, they visited the T Plant, Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility, Central Waste Complex, Building 324, AX farm retrieval control room and other tank farm facilities, 242-A Evaporator, and the Low Activity Waste (LAW) and Laboratory Facilities at the Waste Treatment Plant. DOE and the contractors provided excellent support for the visit.

The Board awarded the Victor Stello, Jr. Award for Safety Leadership to the late Dr. Robert “Bob” Nelson. Vice Chairman Summers presented the award to Dr. Nelson’s widow, Mrs. Lois Elaine Nelson, and his two sons, who were also present at the ceremony.

Public Outreach: Vice Chairman Summers, visiting headquarters staff, and the resident inspectors met with members of the Hanford Advisory Board. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Board outreach, listen to concerns, and discuss ongoing Board activities.

Tank Side Cesium Removal (TSCR): WRPS personnel successfully started the TSCR process after resolving issues with air actuated valve indicators during the transition to operations mode. WRPS will process approximately 190,000 gallons of waste during this processing campaign.

Central Waste Complex: During relocation of waste containers to support ongoing fire protection system inspections (see 2/10/2023 report), facility personnel identified corrosion on the lid of a drum containing transuranic waste, which was substantial enough to affect the drum’s integrity. The building was secured until the drum could be overpacked.

Waste Treatment Plant: A resident inspector evaluated aspects of the lockout/tagout (LOTO) program used to support LAW Facility operations and maintenance. The evaluation included a review of the procedure, field performance of safe condition and safe-to-work checks, and participation in training provided to employees who must sign on to LOTO permits to support their work. The field and procedure evaluation identified areas where the procedure and worker performance could be improved. The resident inspector provided these observations to facility management, who responded appropriately, indicating a commitment to continuous improvement of the program. During participation in the training activity, the resident inspector noted that the time scheduled for the training was insufficient for adequate coverage of the defined training objectives. Further, they noted that addition of a practical exercise to the training related to the performance of safe-to-work checks and subsequent sign on to a LOTO permit would help reinforce the most important objectives of the training and might improve worker knowledge of this important function. This action would help further address some of the deficiencies noted during the resident inspector’s evaluation of field performance.