

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 30, 2007

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: R. Quirk and W. Linzau, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for the Week Ending March 30, 2007

Washington Closure Hanford (WCH): A review was conducted of the Integrated Work Controls Program (IWCP) by independent assessors to evaluate the implementation of the program. The reviewers concluded that the program is an improvement from past practices, but the level of understanding depends on the prior experience of key personnel. A number of strengths were noted, including an overall positive attitude of the workforce in supporting the IWCP as demonstrated during the job hazard analysis meetings and pre-evolution briefings. Some of the weaknesses noted were the lack of understanding of what constitutes a critical task and inconsistent practices in authorizing work to be released.

Waste Treatment Plant: Bechtel National, Inc. (BNI) continues to collect and review documents to ensure that sub-tier steel suppliers to one of their steel fabricators have the appropriate quality records (see Hanford Activity Report 3/16/07). The BNI Project Director stated that material test reports and corresponding unique identification numbers have been maintained and he believes that traceability of quality assurance (QA) requirements will not be an issue.

Office of River Protection (ORP): The site reps met with the acting manager to discuss plans for filling vacancies at ORP. Roughly 20 positions are open, including vacancies for people with QA experience.

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): Last week, Exhaust Fan (EF)-6 was shut down and electrically isolated when a motor bearing failed, but the facility was able to maintain required air flow with the remaining fans. The project was able to replace the motor last weekend by using the motor from EF-4, which has been broken since last year. The project is waiting for allocation of funds to replace EF-4. The site reps walked down this area as well as the electrical equipment room involved in a recent flooding event (see Hanford Activity Report 3/16/07) and noted the areas were clean and material was properly stored despite the recent flurry of work in building 291-Z.

Tank Farms: CH2M Hill Hanford Group (CHG) plans to increase the waste level in double-shell tank (DST) AP-108 to 454 inches during the next few weeks. The waste level in all DSTs is now maintained less than 422 inches. The site rep reviewed procedures and guidance as well as walked down the emergency equipment that would be used in the event that a DST leak developed. The site rep noted that the emergency pumping equipment was not consolidated in one place and that a concise inventory of the equipment was not available.

CHG completed the field work for removing waste from single-shell tank (SST) S-112. This is the seventh SST retrieval completed. Four have been completed in the last year.

K Basins Closure: The Hose-in-Hose transfer system operated for approximately 48 hours straight and transferred an estimated 2.6 cubic meters of sludge from sludge container 104. There was a normal system shutdown and transfers are expected to resume next week.