

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 20, 2008

TO: T. J. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: W. Linzau and R. Quirk, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending June 20, 2008

The Board's outside expert D. Boyd was on-site assisting in the observation of the contractor operational readiness review (CORR) of Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) operations.

Tank Farms: An annulus riser on double-shell tank AN-101 was damaged when a rigging sling attached to a crane snagged it when the crane was moved. The Kevlar sling is used to secure the lifting hooks during crane transit and was dragging on the ground as the crane was moved from its parked location. The spotter was checking to make sure the crane didn't drive over the riser but didn't notice the sling dragging behind the crane until the damage occurred. The work package contained a route map that indicated the safe travel path, but the crane was parked in what the map showed as an exclusion area. After the fact finding for the event, the contractor initiated a problem evaluation report (PER) that stated the storage of the crane near AN-101 was not logged in the load tracking system. The Documented Safety Analysis identifies a specific administrative control (SAC) for tank dome loading, and a key element of the SAC is to "track and control load additions to ensure that the total applied load does not exceed the documented load limit." The PER also notes that the event is not reportable and the issue was self-identified prior to the event. Contractor engineering is planning an evaluation to determine the extent of the damage.

K Basins: The CORR commenced this week for the re-start of SNF retrieval, processing, and storage operations. Operations were demonstrated and evaluated at K West Basin, Cold Vacuum Drying Facility (CVDF), and at the Canister Storage Building (CSB), as well as the transportation between these facilities. Rather than demonstrate the ability to process simulated fuel sequentially from start to finish, the contractor chose to conduct operations simultaneously in all three facilities. Some operations were not performed for the team, such as loading a basket into the multicanister overpack (MCO), but the CORR team believes sufficient operations were observed to adequately evaluate readiness. The CORR team leader required the performance of some safety-related operations that the contractor had not planned to be demonstrated.

The workers in the K West Basin and CVDF were so familiar with the step-by-step procedures that they frequently executed steps before preceding steps were completed. The site rep identified a failure to comply with critical lift requirements for the MCO shield plug to the facility manager who then stopped the operation until the procedure was revised. The procedures used during prior SNF operations were revised before the CORR began, but the CORR team noted a significant number of problems with the procedures.

The CORR is expected to be completed next week.

Plateau Remediation Contract: DOE announced the selection of CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Co. as the prime contractor for central plateau cleanup. Major subcontractors are Areva Federal Services, Fluor Federal Services, and East Tennessee Materials and Energy Corp. John Lehew is the president of the new company.