

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 18, 2008

TO: T. J. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: W. Linzau and R. Quirk, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending July 18, 2008

Staff member F. Dozier, S. Lewis, D. Minnema, M. Moury, and outside expert R. Lewis were on-site reviewing the implementation of DOE Order 226.1A and S-102 corrective actions by the Office of River Protection (ORP) and the tank farm contractor.

Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Processing: DOE completed the Operational Readiness Review (ORR) for the restart of SNF processing. At the outbrief the team identified 14 prestart and 8 poststart findings, and 11 observations for the contractor. The prestart findings include several issues related to radiological control practices and weaknesses in pre-job briefs and post-job reviews. The contractor expects to complete corrective actions by next week. The ORR team also identified one prestart and one poststart finding for the Richland Operations Office (RL).

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP): The contractor provided interim observations from the Broad Based Review (BBR) to their senior managers (see Hanford Activity Report 3/21/08). The project expects to complete the review and issue the final report by December 2008.

The site rep met with the contractor and ORP to discuss the tailoring of IEEE 497, *Standard Criteria for Accident Monitoring Instrumentation for Nuclear Power Generating Stations*. The standard prescribes design criteria, such as instrument range, redundancy, and environmental qualifications based on the need to use the instruments during and after an accident. The standard was tailored by the project to address the differences between power plants and WTP. The contractor agreed to reevaluate their position that some instruments, such as sump level and exhaust stack monitors, were outside the scope of the tailored standard.

Tank Farms: The contractor is developing a draft safety basis amendment to clarify which administrative controls (AC) are specific administrative controls (SAC) and develop technical safety requirements for each SAC. The action to draft an amendment was prompted by questions from the site reps for waste tank dome loading controls after a crane damaged a tank riser (see Hanford Activity Report 6/27/08). The draft amendment will be submitted to ORP early next month and is scheduled for approval in September 2008.

Minor skin contamination was found on the left calf of a Health Physics Technician during exit surveys from the pump room in 242-A Evaporator. Decontamination efforts were successful.

Contract Transition: The new Tank Operations Contractor, Washington River Protection Solutions, briefed ORP on their approach to manage the tank farms. The contract transition began on July 1 and will complete by September 30, 2008.

RL directed the Project Hanford Management Contractor, Fluor Hanford, Inc. (FHI), to initiate transit-out activities. The formal transition to the Plateau Remediation Contractor, CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Company, will begin on August 1 and will complete by September 30, 2008. FHI will continue to manage activities under the scope of the Mission Support Contract until the contract is awarded and transition is complete.