

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 3, 2008

TO: T. J. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: W. Linzau and R. Quirk, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending October 3, 2008

Contract Transition: The tank farms operations contractor, Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS), and the plateau remediation contractor, CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Company (CHPRC), successfully completed their transitions and took over the responsibilities as prime contractors. Fluor Hanford, Inc. was retained to provide services, such as emergency preparedness, site fire department, security, training, and infrastructure support that will eventually be provided under the Mission Support Contract.

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): The contractor commenced reviews by its Hazard Review Boards as part of the plan to resume high-risk work activities after the contract transition. The site rep attended the review of activities associated with loading fuel at PFP. The reviewers demonstrated a good questioning attitude when they discovered that work would not conform to a Technical Safety Requirements Administrative Control (AC). The AC limits the maximum length of the boom to 80 feet on the crane used to lift the loaded container, but the crane staged for use had a boom with a length in excess of 100 feet. The work package had undergone the normal review and approval process prior to transition, but the error was caught when the new contractor fulfilled their commitment to DOE to do additional hazard reviews before commencing higher risk work.

Tank Farms: An independent panel conducted a study of the technical basis document that provides the foundation for worker protection practices for chemical vapor hazards at the tank farms. The study concluded that the methodology was consistent with industry best practices for setting exposure levels but questioned whether the underlying sampling data provided sufficient certainty about the risk of exposure. The contractor is evaluating the recommendations of the panel and working with the Office of River Protection to determine the best path forward.

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP): The contractor completed the review phase of the Broad Based Review (BBR), a corrective action for the black cell piping issue. The goal was to use several vertical and horizontal slices to determine the extent of problems associated with the flow down of technical requirements into the design, procurement, and construction of WTP. The review team identified 879 potential issues and is continuing to discuss these with Engineering. To date, the BBR team and Engineering concur that 180 requirements were not flowed down but there are no hardware impacts. The final report should be issued in December 2008.

K Basins Closure (KBC): The contractor is evaluating if a Potential Inadequacy of the Safety Analysis (PISA) exists for the size and shape of a hydrogen bubble that can be generated in and released by containerized sludge. The contractor established compensatory measures that include restricting access to the area above the two sludge containers that are in question.