

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 23, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: J. S. Contardi/M.T. Sautman, SRS Site Representatives
SUBJECT: SRS Report for Week Ending December 23, 2005

DNFSB Staff Activity: The Board Technical Director, Kent Fortenberry, and the Site Reps met with representatives of South Carolina, the Department of Energy, and contractors to discuss their respective positions on issues related to the Salt Waste Processing Facility and liquid waste.

Contract Strategy: The Savannah River Site Recompetition Acquisition Strategy replaces the existing site contract with two separate contracts: liquid waste and the site management and operating contract (i.e., rest of the site). In addition, DOE prime contracts may be awarded for some discrete portions of the deactivation and decommissioning work. The liquid waste portion of the existing contract will likely be extended.

Readiness Assessments (RA): The Site Rep provided the contractor with several suggestions since they are in the process of revising their RA procedure to address lessons learned from recent RA's, clarify expectations, and discuss many good practices. This week, the Site Rep met with the Operations Evaluation Department Manager and the Readiness Assurance Manager to discuss how these suggestions were addressed. For each of the suggestions, the contractor either incorporated them or provided a satisfactory position.

The Site Rep also reviewed the status of post-start findings from 13 RA's performed in 2004 and 2005. In general, the vast majority of the corrective actions had been closed. The handful of corrective actions that are still open or overdue will be reviewed in more detail.

Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF): The Site Rep met with the Salt Processing Division Director and SWPF Senior Project Manager to discuss DOE design reviews and technical assessments related to SWPF. This interview was the latest in a series of interviews with DOE division directors to discuss DOE oversight programs and their effectiveness.

Tank Farms: The list of proposed specific administrative controls for the tank farms Documented Safety Analysis (excluding waste transfer and tank 48 administrative controls) is being finalized.

Saltstone: Much of the week was spent removing compacted material from a screw feeder. The Readiness Assessment has slipped to mid-January.

Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF): The contractor is finalizing several calculations related to hydrogen accumulation in equipment (Site Rep. weekly 5/6/05 and 11/10/05). These include a method and criteria for assessing the integrity of piping, vessels, and tanks that are subjected to an internal explosion and their failure mode. Other calculations determine the loading required to cause a ductile burst or fragmentation of DWPF components following an explosion, the amount that fragments could penetrate nearby equipment, and explosion impacts to jumpers.