

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 7, 2006

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: R. Quirk and W. Linzau, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for the Week Ending July 7, 2006

Solid Waste Operations Complex (SWOC): A Management Directive (MD) became effective this week that reduces the allowable hydrogen concentration limit from 15 to 5 percent for moving waste containers after they are retrieved and vented. The hydrogen concentration limit is a Technical Safety Requirement control. The purpose of this MD is to provide interim drum hydrogen abatement levels until additional guidance is provided by the TRU Waste Authorization Basis Re-engineering effort. This Office of Environmental Management effort is creating a complex-wide criteria for handling containers with flammable gases.

K Basin Closure (KBC): The Integrated Acceptance Test of the Hose-in-Hose and Basin Water Return Line was completed. The 29 test deficiency reports are closed and the test results will be presented to the Joint Test Group next week. Other construction tests are being completed and turnover to operations is expected to also occur next week. The tentative schedule for starting the contractor operational readiness review (ORR) is in mid-August and the DOE ORR is scheduled to begin a month later.

Tank Farms: Electrical outages are scheduled for the various tank farms and the 242-A evaporator to perform both preventive and corrective maintenance as well as implement various facility electrical modifications. These outages have received strong management support from both the Office of River Protection and CH2M Hill Hanford Group (CHG) and are to some extent a response to an electrical failure event at another DOE site. The outages in AN farm, C farm and the evaporator are complete and the remaining outages are scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. A significant number of electrical safety issues have been identified and most of these have already been corrected.

CHG is investigating the use of a new technology to retrieve waste from the single-shell tanks. It will be similar to the remote water lance (Salt Mantis) used in S-112 but will use high pressure water to promote movement of the waste up the hose. Testing in the cold test facility is expected to begin in the next month.

Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP): The site rep observed the drilling activities on entry hole number 1 at the WTP. The hole is approximately 350 feet below grade. The progress has been slowed due to the well-consolidated Ringold formation that was encountered at 322 feet. At the current rate the drilling should reach the basalt next week at a depth of approximately 390 feet.

The installation of siding has commenced on the Low Activity Waste facility. The contractor is working to make the building weather-tight to prevent future water damage as occurred last December to the intumescent fire protection coatings on steel structural members.