

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 3, 2006

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: R. Quirk and W. Linzau, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for the Week Ending November 3, 2006

K Basins Closure: The Readiness Assessment for the K West Basin Floor and Pit Sludge Retrieval (FPSR) was completed this week. There were two preliminary findings related to operator qualification, one of which is a pre-start. Six negative observations were also identified. It is expected that FPSR operations will commence in the next few weeks.

All of the found fuel in K East was transferred to the K West Basin. This is one of the two requirements in a condition of approval (COA) imposed by the Richland Operations Office (RL) for downgrading the safety classification of the K East Basin walls and floor from safety-significant to general service. The other requirement in the COA is the removal of bulk sludge from the K East containers. The downgrade also applies to the lift platform for shielded casks and support systems other than electrical power.

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP): Bechtel National, Inc. (BNI) is proposing changes to the commercial-grade dedication process to allow tailoring of requirements from NQA-1-1989 to incorporate elements of NQA-1-2004. The purpose of the changes is to allow the dedication of either off-the-shelf or engineered items. In addition, the dedication of commercial-grade services will be permitted. BNI's Plant Safety Committee approved the change request, which will be submitted to the Office of River Protection for approval.

Solid Waste Operations: The site reps met with RL personnel to discuss the plans to modify the T-Plant to support Tri-Party Agreement milestone M-91. The changes would allow the processing of the estimated 10,855 cubic meters of waste that cannot be processed in existing facilities. The estimate is based on the waste currently in storage, forecast of waste to be generated during site cleanup, and solid waste that will be retrieved from the low-level burial grounds. The proposed modifications include the addition of a three-story building to the end of the T-Plant canyon to allow movement of large items into the facility. Various modules would be placed on the canyon floor to process remote-handled and large-package transuranic waste to meet the waste acceptance criteria for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. The submission of the CD-0 package is planned by the end of this calendar year.

Tank Farms: The SY Tank Farm entered a Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) because of the loss of both trains of the ventilation system, even though there has been significant improvement in the availability of ventilation systems during the last few months. During repairs of the A train, the B train exhauster failed due to a loss of a programmable logic controller. The A train exhauster maintenance was completed and the LCO was exited two days later. The contractor is evaluating historical system failures to better estimate the required inventory of spare parts as well as proposing design changes to improve availability.