

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 16, 2004

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: D. Grover and M. Sautman, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending January 16, 2004

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP): On Monday, a 1,112-pound steel beam fell 20-25' after the choker (rigged off-center to facilitate installation) holding the beam contacted a handrail as it was being lowered through an opening at the Low-Activity Waste facility. The beam struck a concrete wall and fell to the slab below. On Tuesday, a stainless steel plate was dropped 8' and a section of telescoping brace was dropped 12' at two other facilities at the WTP. Luckily, no one was injured in any of these events. The Site Rep attended a meeting that senior construction managers held with all of the construction foremen and general foremen to discuss these events and other recent accidents and to emphasize the need to refocus on work safety. (IV)

Tank Farms: CH2M Hill Hanford Group (CHG) has completed the root cause analysis and identified corrective actions related to the S-112 retrieval pumping event. (See November and December weekly reports). The root cause was that the process Operations Management used to verify all of the S-112 retrieval operators were adequately qualified prior to performing the activity was inadequate. Several direct and contributing causes were also identified that address the many management breakdowns, training deficiencies, and Conduct of Operations weaknesses. CHG management views this as a watershed event and is planning to make major revisions to their training programs, improve management oversight, and increase operations management ownership of the activity. Many of the corrective actions focus on the delta between current and new activities. For these actions to be successful, CHG will have to stop downplaying the differences between new and current activities (especially with regards to readiness reviews) and more proactively identify them so they can be addressed. (II)

Sludge Retrieval and Disposition Project (SRDP): Fluor Hanford has transferred Scott Sax from the Plutonium Finishing Plant to be the Vice President of the SRDP. The SRDP continues to develop the baseline change request for implementing the alternate sludge processing initiative. This was originally due to be transmitted to DOE in December and is now expected on January 20, 2004. A K-East Basin safety basis revision is underway to support removal of safety controls that are not expected to be needed to remove and ship the sand filter backwash sludge in the North Load Out Pit. This backwash sludge is from the skimmer system and has less fuel corrosion particulate and uranium metal content than the K-East basin floor sludge. (II)

River Corridor Project: A review of the Draft List B for the River Corridor Project request for proposal identified that several orders of interest to the Board are not included. These are the Comprehensive Emergency Management System, Real Property Asset Management, Maintenance Management Program for DOE Nuclear Facilities, and Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance Program orders. Several of these orders were invoked in the List B for the previous contracting effort. (IV)