

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 20, 2002

**TO:** K. Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** D. Grover and M. Sautman, Hanford Site Representatives  
**SUBJ:** Activity Report for the Week Ending September 20, 2002

Board staff members and outside experts reviewed the design and analysis of the foundation and structure for the Waste Treatment Plant Pretreatment Facility, the Low Activity Waste Facility cold joint recovery actions, and the design criteria for mechanical component qualification.

Tank Farms: A focused review of the Office of River Protection (ORP) and CH2M Hill Hanford Group Integrated Safety Management Systems identified 14 issues. The assessment found continuing problems with implementation of the Unreviewed Safety Question (USQ) process. The complexity of the current authorization basis and lack of training for USQ evaluators on the specific processes and systems they review contribute to the problems. The assessment also found the ORP assessment program still has not been effectively implemented and there is no formal ORP management walk through program. Other issues addressed configuration management/work control, excessive delinquency rate for corrective actions, and implementation problems with the lessons learned/post-job review programs. (I-C)

Rec. 2000-2: Earlier this year, the Phase II Assessment of the Central Waste Complex's fire protection system found that code-required internal piping examinations of the sprinkler systems were not being performed. During a recent examination to address this finding, inspectors found that about one-half of the cross sectional area of the cross main piping for one facility's sprinkler system was filled with mud and scale. This system was flushed. (I-C)

Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): The SNFP has delayed the declaration of readiness for the Fuel Transfer System for several more days to allow additional time to conduct dry runs of the equipment and complete other activities. The project is using readiness self assessment forms to document how the criteria and requirements identified in the DOE order for startup are met prior to declaring readiness. The site rep reviewed the self assessment forms approved by the SNFP organization to date. The description of the project condition did not support the conclusion that the criteria and requirements had been met for several of these forms. The site rep discussed these observations with the facility manager responsible for approving these documents. In many cases the manager stated that the objective evidence provided with the forms was sufficient to determine the adequacy of the criteria. The manager stated that evidence for the remaining examples would be reexamined for adequacy. (III-A)

T Plant: A Board Outside Expert reviewed the structural integrity of T Plant. Additional review of the plant structure and systems is likely to be necessary to evaluate the adequacy of this 58-year-old facility for continued use beyond the short term storage of K-Basin sludge. (I-C)

cc: Board Members