

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 26, 2001

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director

FROM: D. Grover and M. Sautman, Hanford Site Representatives

SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending October 26, 2001

Waste Treatment Plant: The Site Reps have expressed concern to Bechtel National Inc. (BNI) and the Office of Safety Regulation that it sometimes does not appear that BNI is evaluating unmitigated accidents to identify controls, which are then screened for safety classification. Instead, the Site Reps continue to see cases where "assumptions" are used to "negate scenarios." The Site Reps have questioned how BNI ensures that the "assumptions" are incorporated into the design, are screened for safety classification, and whether they ever fail. (I-C)

Plutonium Finishing Plant: The Fluor Hanford Operational Readiness Review (ORR) for the new thermal stabilization/bagless transfer system glovebox line began Thursday. (III-A)

T-Plant: The DOE Richland Operational Readiness Review for T-Plant increased source inventory limits and Shippingport spent fuel removal began Monday. The ORR team has identified issues with the procedures not adequately incorporating the acceptance criteria imposed by the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project. These issues could affect the acceptability of the fuel by the Office Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) if not resolved. During the operations demonstrations, the pressure gauge used to meet the OCRWM required certified pressure rebound test displayed an absolute pressure of -0.7 torr. This value exceeded the permissible error of a gauge which had been calibrated in accordance with OCRWM Quality Assurance requirements and had not reached the calibration expiration date. The rebound test is used to verify that the amount of water in the Shippingport Spent Fuel Canister (SSFC) is insufficient to overpressurize the SSFC during storage. (III-A)

Recommendation 2000-2: Mr. Sautman has questioned the Office of River Protection's plan to perform very few Phase 2 assessments, especially in light of recent facility representative surveillances that have noted a number of findings with the material condition, configuration management, procedures, etc. (I-C)

River Corridor Project (RCP): The RCP issued a draft Request For Proposals (RFP) this week. Mr. Grover compared the list of DOE directives applicable to the RCP contract to the listing of orders of interest to the Board. Several relevant orders were not included in the RFP. A notable omission from the list is the directive related to Startup and Restart of Nuclear Facilities which would require the contractor to conduct operational readiness reviews to demonstrate that new deactivation and decommissioning activities could be performed safely. (I-A)

cc: Board Members