

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 3, 2000

**TO:** G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

**FROM:** M. Sautman, Hanford Site Representative

**SUBJ:** Activity Report for the Week Ending March 3, 2000

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): A flowchart has been developed that shows the disposition path for plutonium metal items exhibiting weight gains or are in contact with plastic. Items exhibiting weight gains between 5 and 50 grams are to be radiographed. PFP believes they can start radiographing two weeks earlier than originally planned. The Department of Energy (DOE) is trying to further accelerate this by seeing if other qualified radiography technicians are available at Hanford. Items found to have limited space in the can or with weight gains exceeding 50 grams will be transferred to a glovebox. The Site Rep intends to review a calculation that concluded that the weight would have to increase by 150 grams before can failure is possible. Can weighing is to start Monday. Steps are being taken to free up space and allow storage of suspect plutonium metal items in several gloveboxes. PFP is also accelerating their plans to develop procedures for repacking, brushing, and oxidizing plutonium metal. However, they do not expect to have procedures ready to start repacking items until April 30. PFP and DOE managers continue to treat this issue as a high priority safety issue. (3-A)

B. Tank 101-SY: The third waste transfer began on Tuesday. After 160,000 gallons of waste had been transferred, the transfer was suspended Wednesday morning because they were approaching the environmental permit 24- hour release limit of 100 pounds of NH<sub>3</sub>. The transfer resumed in the afternoon and was completed Thursday afternoon. A total of 286,000 gallons of waste was transferred. (3-A)

B. Recommendation 95-2: Reflecting their new organization, Fluor Hanford (FH) has proposed switching to a single Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) description for their projects. Outstanding FH ISMS Verification Review Phase I corrective actions would be closed by a DOE review of the single system description. A single Phase II ISMS Verification Review conducted in late Spring would complete the verification process for FH. Previously, there were 4 more Phase I and 5 Phase II reviews scheduled. Bechtel Hanford Inc. also began their Phase I/II Verification Review Thursday. (1-C)

cc: Board members