

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 28, 2000

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director

FROM: M. Sautman and S. Stokes, Hanford Site Representatives

SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending April 28, 2000

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): PFP declared readiness on Friday for handling and stabilizing plutonium metal. Thermal stabilization will commence the week of May 8 once they complete a required inventory. The Site Rep will be meeting with PFP to discuss their plans for deciding which items will be stabilized, repacked, or just monitored. (3-A)

B. 233-S: The Site Rep had requested radiological records because of concerns about the level of DOE and contractor oversight of decommissioning activities. During the last 7½ months, the project manager, field superintendent, radiological control supervisor, safety representative, project engineer, 2 field engineers, radiological engineer, and the characterization specialist had a combined total of 10 entries into the contamination areas where work was being performed. There were 3 entries by facility representatives and no entries by DOE line management or engineering staff. This week the project manager issued clear direction stating that he expected the field superintendent and radiological control supervisor to make at least weekly entries and that the safety representative, radiological engineer, and field engineer make entries at least every other week. At the project manager's request, a team of contractor and DOE health physicists will be inspecting the process hood glovebag that the Site Rep had previously questioned. A few weeks ago, DOE changed facility representative assignment so one could focus on 233-S full time. DOE line and engineering staffers are increasing their field presence. The Activity Hazards Analysis has also been revised so that only leather or canvas gloves can be used outside of glovebags when cutting and handling sharp objects. (3-B)

Project W-314, Pipe Procurement Event: CH2MHill Hanford Group (CHG) has not completed its recovery actions to allow safety class and safety significant construction and procurement activities to resume. This is causing further disruptions in the overall W-314 project. (3-A)

Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): The readiness assessment (RA) for the Phased Start-up Initiative (PSI) has been delayed due to continuing problems with the integrated water treatment system's programmable logic controller software. This RA is now scheduled for May 22, 2000. Additionally, software issues are also contributing to testing problems in the Cold Vacuum Drying Facility (CVDF). Also in the CVDF, delays in procuring replacements for 16 valve seats in the safety class helium system will continue to impact the testing program. (1-C)

cc: Board members

