

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 23, 1999

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

**FROM:** R. Arcaro, & D. G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representatives

**SUBJ:** Activity Report for the Week Ending April 23, 1999

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): A criticality program infraction occurred on April 20. A criticality alarm panel (CAP) was taken out of service in order to provide an audible criticality alarm for drill purposes. During the time when a CAP is out of service, no fissile material moves are allowed. Following completion of the drill, but before the CAP was again operable, personnel continued a previously authorized fissile material move. The occurrence revealed the following:

- The need to clearly communicate restrictions on plant operations
- The need to clearly communicate restoration from unusual activities, in this case, a drill
- The need to expeditiously restore safety systems to service

B. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): In response to a SNFP proposal to pursue both a design solution and a probabilistic solution to the cask drop issue at KW Basin, DOE-RL issued a letter dated April 15. DOE-RL stated that it did not support the probabilistic approach, but urged an expedited design solution and requested a detailed plan to complete the design and keep the project on schedule. During a video conference with project personnel on April 21, Dr. Mansfield and the Board's staff discussed aspects of the structural analysis of the KW Basin south load-out pit. They also suggested that the project look more seriously at an option of tethering or restraining the cask to prevent or mitigate a postulated drop.

C. Tank Farms - Waste Volume Projections and Retrieval: A recent draft Operational Waste Volume Projection has included the recently revised interim stabilization schedule, the additional waste volume to be generated by the impending retrieval of 101-SY, and updated waste generation estimates. The tanks can accommodate this extra waste, but projections show that the TPA-required single-shell tank retrieval schedule cannot be accomplished. Discussions between DOE and the state regulators are on-going. Double-shell and single-shell tank retrieval, as currently planned, will support the feed requirements of Phase I of the privatized Tank Waste Remediation System. Phase II feed requirements are not as well-defined, but preliminary indications are that significant additional infrastructure and transfer systems would be required to meet TPA processing milestones.

D. Facility Representative Oral Board: Mr. Arcaro observed the final oral board for a Tank Farms Facility Representative. The examination was well-run and the candidate was well-prepared. The candidate passed the board and was therefore qualified as a facility representative. There are sufficient DOE Facility Representatives for the Tank Farms to allow candidates to concentrate on qualification while qualified Facility Representatives perform most of the required duties. This situation, an improvement over the last several years, is an indication of the maturity of the Facility Representative qualification program in the Tank Farms.

cc: Board members