

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 28, 1999

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

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

SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending May 28, 1999

D. G. Ogg was on leave through Wednesday of this week. S. Stokes was on site through Wednesday reviewing the PFP Integrated Project Management Plan.

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): Mr. Arcaro discussed the potential to accelerate the installation of additional muffle furnaces and the start-up of the cementation line with DOE and B&W Hanford Company (BWHC) management. Currently, availability of operators and other administrative requirements have extended the milestones for the start-up of these activities to Spring 2000. Using the resource-loaded schedule in BWHC's recently completed Integrated Project Management Plan, BWHC, DOE-RL, and the DNFSB Site Representative were able to identify some opportunities to accelerate these milestones.

The prototype vertical calciner will have seismic shutdown switches installed in approximately two weeks. This path was chosen by BWHC management when they determined it would take just as long to justify not installing the seismic upgrades. Nonetheless, DOE-RL and BWHC expect to start up the prototype calciner one month early by performing a more focused, activity-based Readiness Assessment rather than a formal Operational Readiness Review.

B. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): On May 26 EH-1 issued a Preliminary Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty for violations of the Quality Assurance Rule (10 CFR 830.120) at the SNFP. The proposed fines total \$330,000. While the deficiencies noted have long been documented, EH-10 investigators found insufficient evidence of substantive corrective action on the part of Fluor Daniel Hanford (FDH) and its major subcontractors. FDH has 30 days to respond to the notice of violation and pay the fine.

At KW-Basin, installation work continues. However, SNFP project personnel suspended work on the Integrated Water Treatment System (IWTS) after workers discovered improper welds and other deficiencies in IWTS piping that was to be installed. Recovery activities will further challenge the project to meet its milestone date for completion of this subproject.

C. Tank 101-SY Level Growth: Lockheed Martin Hanford Company (LMHC) again deployed its mechanical mitigation arm in 101-SY in order to induce a controlled gas release to mitigate the level rise in Tank 101-SY. The LMHC team found that the waste was more easily agitated during this deployment. Apparently, the waste had softened after nearly 1000 gallons of water had been added during last week's deployment. Although more gas was released during this recent operation, the level decrease was a modest 0.2 inches. The mitigation arm deployments, more efficient pump runs, and possibly some other unknown phenomena have eliminated any net level growth during the month of May.

cc: Board members