

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 25, 1999

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

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

SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending June 25, 1999

Mr. Ogg was out of the office this week.

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): A June 4 letter from Department of Energy Headquarters (DOE-HQ) to DOE Richland (DOE-RL) requires DOE-RL to develop a path forward that provides PFP the capability to store stabilized plutonium in packages compliant with DOE-STD-3013-96 by December 2004. Contractor and DOE representatives held a workshop to develop alternatives that will achieve the goal of the June 4 letter. Mr. Arcaro attended the workshop. In order to store material in 3013 packages, either the storage vaults at PFP require some modification or a new 3013 package that fits in the PFP vaults must be qualified. The following 5 alternatives were identified:

- ! Perform previously planned vault modifications between 2002 and 2004.
- ! Install prefabricated vault adapters to minimize the work performed in the vault radiation areas.
- ! Strengthen the open storage racks in Vault 2 to allow storage of the heavier 3013 packages.
- ! Overpack 3013 in shipping containers or other devices and store them in available areas.
- ! Redesign and qualify a smaller 3013 can.

Details on each alternative are being developed to objectively select a path forward by July 30.

The start-up checks for both the Prototype Vertical Calciner and the shift in feed to begin thermally stabilizing organic-bearing sludges are being completed. Each of these processes is on track to begin the first week of July. Mr. Arcaro will review the affidavits associated with readiness to start these processes. (III-A.1.a.)

B. Deactivation of Building 327: Building 327 houses eight hot cells where various activities, including testing of fuel elements, were performed. The facility is currently being deactivated by B&W Hanford Company (BWHC) before transition to Bechtel Hanford, Inc. BWHC has performance incentives to clean F-and G-Cells this fiscal year. Mr. Arcaro observed the preparations for the final removal of equipment from the G-Cell. The equipment (a furnace) was scheduled to be removed this week, but the job was postponed because some workers did not meet all radiological entry requirements. The job site was well-staged and the facility appeared well-maintained. However, many of the cells to be cleaned in the future appear to have significant amount of loose equipment destined to be stored in "paint cans" and eventually shipped off as waste. Although this work is not part of the performance incentive, it appears to be a good candidate for work that can be performed during lull periods to accelerate the risk reduction of the facility. (III-B.1)

cc: Board members