

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 21, 1998

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: P.F. Gubanc & D.G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representatives

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending May 22, 1998

Board staff member Steven Stokes was on site Monday to observe the 233-S Operational Readiness Review (ORR). Mr. Ogg was at DNFSB Headquarters all week. Mr. Gubanc was on leave Friday.

A. 233-S Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) Operational Readiness Review (ORR): The DOE-RL ORR team completed its field work at 233-S this Tuesday and will brief their conclusions to DOE-RL and Bechtel Hanford, Inc. (BHI) line management this Friday. A draft report is expected by May 29. Preliminary indications are that the ORR team will conclude that initial D&D is ready to commence but future higher risk work, for which work packages have not yet been prepared, should receive some additional form of readiness review before proceeding.

On a related matter, the Board's letter of April 15, 1998, requested DOE to explain its efforts to improve the DOE-RL readiness review process. DOE-RL intends to provide their input to DOE-HQ by May 22. On May 18, Messrs. Stokes and Gubanc met with DOE-RL to provide 233-S ORR observations for their consideration in developing the May 22 input:

- The 233-S ORR team did not consider using off-site expertise to assist in the review.
- Most team members were not qualified to enter the most hazardous areas of 233-S. (On May 20, Mr. Wagoner promised that corrective actions would be taken with the DOE-RL staff.)
- While BHI's pipe trench work planning utilized a mockup for training and testing, the trench has not been inspected to verify its condition (i.e., mockup is based on "as-built" drawings).

B. TWRS Privatization: On May 21, DOE-RL publicly announced that it would extend the BNFL privatization contract by two months to continue negotiations for the next phase of the project. The Lockheed Martin Advanced Energy Systems (LMAES) contract will end, as scheduled, on May 25.

C. TWRS Advisory Panel Review: The TWRS Advisory Sub-Panel on Worker Safety and Health met this week to review conduct of operations in Tank Farms. Due to poor advance preparations and communications, the panel was unable to fully accomplish their objectives (i.e., briefs were not appropriately sequenced and did not include some key organizations). The panel also conducted their review "en masse" which limited their ability to unobtrusively observe conduct of operations. Even so, the panel did pursue continuing concerns with tank farms emergency planning (e.g., back shift staffing and documentation) and other issues.

D. Final Report: This is Mr. Gubanc's last report as a Hanford Site Representative. Next week, Mr. Gubanc will complete the administrative checkout from Hanford and commence his relocation to Tennessee. He will report for duty as the Board's Oak Ridge Site Representative on June 7.

cc: Board members