

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 2, 1998

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: D. G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representative

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending October 2, 1998

Staff members Wille, Yeniscavich, Roarty, Grover, Davis, and Gwal were on site reviewing the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project. Outside expert Dave Boyd was on site assisting with oversight of the Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) Phase I review at the Tank Waste Remediation System (TWRS).

A. Recommendation 95-2: On September 24, John Wagoner signed the SNFP Authorization Agreement (AA). The staff will monitor the implementation of the AA, due to be complete by November 23.

The DOE team conducting the ISMS Phase I review of TWRS completed its first of two weeks of work. To date, no serious procedural deficiencies have been noted. However, the team is pursuing several areas of concern. The Board's Site Representative and outside expert will continue to follow the review closely through its completion, scheduled for October 9.

Unique in the TWRS ISMS is the issuance, by DOE-RL, of the "RL TWRS Integrated Safety Management System Description" that applies only to RL. This document is intended to describe the RL TWRS role in integrating ES&H requirements into the planning and conduct of work. A copy of this document will be sent to the Board's D.C. office.

B. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): This week, Mr. Ogg attended the weekly PFP Operational Readiness Review (ORR) preparations meeting (preps for Phase II fissile material handling), the weekly PFP "Quartet" management meeting, and the monthly PFP Program review. Although Babcock and Wilcox Hanford Co. (BWHC) planned to complete the Management Self Assessment (MSA) for Phase II operations this week, several outstanding items remain: completion of operational cold runs, completion of authorization basis changes, and closing MSA pre-start findings. DOE-RL now estimates that the contractor ORR may not begin until the end of October.

C. Enforcement on Tank C-106 sluicing: This week, the Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE) rejected a DOE proposal to extend the date for beginning Tank C-106 sluicing. This action leaves intact the ability of WDOE to fine DOE up to \$10,000 for each week that the milestone is delayed. It is not yet clear whether WDOE will actually impose the fine.

D. 233-S Decommissioning: Bechtel Hanford Inc. (BHI) continues with decommissioning activities at the 233-S, Plutonium Concentration Facility. Recently, BHI workers removed the cover blocks from the process pipe trench that connects 233-S with the REDOX canyon. With the exception of some contaminated soil adjacent to the trench that was subsequently contained, BHI workers found no significant chemical or radiological hazards.

cc: Board members