

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 14, 1997

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

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

**SUBJ:** Activity Report for Week Ending November 14, 1997

Mr. Gubanc was on leave November 10 and 14. The Site Representative offices were closed November 11 for Veterans Day.

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): On November 12, the Fluor Daniel Hanford (FDH) Readiness Assessment (RA) team completed their review and provided four pre-start and four post-start findings to PFP for correction. (Three of the pre-start items deal with the adequacy of PFP corrective action management.) PFP expects to have their responses to the pre-start items prepared by November 14 although FDH review and acceptance is not expected to complete before November 18. Based on long-standing concerns with PFP corrective action management, DOE-RL line management is scrutinizing PFP's responses closely and does not expect to request the DOE-RL RA to start any sooner than November 24.

B. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): On November 14, Mr. Ogg toured the Site Fabrication Shop (SFS) with the SFS manager, the DOE-RL quality assurance (QA) expert, and the Duke Engineering & Services Hanford (DESH) QA manager. Based on this initial observation, the SFS appears to have sufficient space and equipment to handle the MCO basket fabrication job. SFS manning is significantly reduced from just a year ago, but additional workers who could potentially meet the new QA requirements are available from the local labor force. DOE-RL and DESH have yet to assess the adequacy of the SFS QA program and determine the cost and schedule impact of fully qualifying the SFS to the QA requirements of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management.

C. ALARA: A long-standing complaint at Hanford, especially by those with non-Hanford experience, has been the continued use of antiquated and inefficient tools and practices for radiological work. Due to continued budget pressures and the infusion of high-caliber technical expertise into DOE-RL (i.e., excepted service), there is increasing interest and attention in finding more efficient tools and practices. Examples include the use of radiological containments, continuous air monitors which compensate for radon, quick assemble/disassemble scaffolding, and combination  $\alpha/\beta/\gamma$  survey instruments with large surface area probes. We are encouraging these efforts and are highlighting the possibilities to DOE and contractor senior management.

cc: Board Members