

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 8, 1997

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

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

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending August 8, 1997

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) Activities: With all investigation, evaluation, and assessment reports in hand (some in draft form), Babcock and Wilcox Hanford Co. (BWHC) will reportedly perform a comprehensive root cause analysis for events at PFP. In addition, Fluor Daniel Hanford (FDH) is leading a multi-contractor effort to address site-wide weaknesses including:

1. Chemical vulnerability and inventory management
2. Emergency response (including security and environmental response)
3. Occupational health and radiological monitoring
4. Authorization Basis/Safety Envelope

We will provide details of these efforts as they become available.

On August 7, a leak in a chilled water line in the duct level of PFP released 35-50 gallons of water (not 1000-2000 as previously reported) into the facility. The water caused an electrical short setting off the fire alarm and prompting an evacuation of the facility, but no fire occurred. Current indications are that a concentrated nitric acid line, located above the chilled water line, dripped unnoticed and corroded through the chilled water line. The acid line was leaking from a "T" which several years earlier had been repaired but with only a temporary patch. Although the acid supply tank was drained, the acid line itself had not been emptied. Mr. Ogg will follow up.

B. TWRS Rotary Mode Core Sampling (RMCS): Training of the operating crews for the RMCS truck is complete and the truck should be moved to the field for setup next week. Lockheed Martin (LMHC) expects RMCS to commence on August 15. RMCS capability is required to sample the ten remaining high priority tanks identified in the Recom. 93-5 implementation plan.

C. Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS): On July 28, FDH issued its draft ISMS Plan for external review. A copy has been forwarded to the DNFSB staff (Arcaro) for review. Mr. Gubanc will be prepared to discuss the plan when he visits DNFSB-HQ next week.

D. Discussion with Site Manager: On August 7, we met with the Site Manager and his deputy.

1. Mr. Wagoner's temporary assignment to the Brookhaven National Lab is complete. He returned full-time to his DOE-RL Manager duties on August 7.
2. DOE-RL is preparing contingency plans for a potential reduction-in-force. DOE-RL is examining means to protect its core technical competence.

cc: Board Members