

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 18, 1997

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

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

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending July 18, 1997

Mr. Ogg was on leave Friday.

A. Configuration Management: Over the last several weeks, Mr. Gubanc has conducted extensive discussions with DOE and contractor engineering personnel regarding the difficulties associated with maintaining facility configuration management (CM). Key observations include:

1. Engineering staffs are not adequately trained in CM fundamentals and the administrative tools (e.g., drawings, labels) and processes (e.g., field verification) which implement them. Introductory orientation training of engineers and their managers on Hanford engineering practices has not existed for several years.
2. Engineering management is reluctant to hold their engineers accountable for their work. In some cases, management may not even recognize a problem exists.
3. When major facility modifications are installed, certain systems and their drawings are utilized and modified by both operations and construction personnel. A standard practice has evolved on-site where, to avoid the operations/construction interface, the construction project will create and maintain a duplicate system drawing. Thus, at the end of a project, the facility is left with two drawings of the same system; neither of which may be complete or correct. For systems where multiple modifications were installed, multiple drawings may exist. Attempting system operations and isolation under such conditions is a dubious endeavor.

Mr. Gubanc has shared these observations with both DOE-RL and Fluor-Daniel Hanford (FDH) management and continues to press for corrective action. [Construction quality issues have become more important to the Site Reps recently since it was discovered that the TWRS office building (in which we sit) is sagging due to the installation of excessive concrete loads on the second floor.]

B. Canister Storage Building (CSB) Construction: Mowat Construction Co., the constructor for the CSB continues to address concerns raised by Duke Engineering Services Hanford (DESH) and DOE-RL following the July 2, 1997 electrical near-miss event. All crane operations remain shut down. Mowat also continues weld inspections and weld repairs to correct non-specification welds in steel roof trusses for the CSB. Mowat will perform in-place weld repairs for welds in trusses that are installed, but will ship defective roof trusses in the lay-down yard back to the vendor for repair. Late on July 18th, FDH and DESH senior management were meeting to discuss Mowat's response to the "show cause" letter issued by DESH on July 2nd.

cc: Board Members