

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director
FROM: P.F. Gubanc & D.G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for Week Ending July 3, 1997

Mr. Gubanc was on leave Wednesday and Thursday.

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) Activities: Key highlights this week include:

1. Plutonium Reclamation Facility (PRF) Investigation Reports: The accident investigation team expects to issue the new review draft of its report today and is requesting comments by next Tuesday. We understand that the findings are significantly revised and are focused more on management systems. Additionally, the emergency response evaluation team issued a review draft of its report on June 30th. The report is not complete as it does not yet include the section on medical response for treatment of the exposed individuals. We will review both reports locally, and have copies sent back to DNFSB HQ.

2. DOE-RL Readiness Assessment (RA) at PFP: On June 30th, Mr. Ogg observed the second drill at PFP (a spill drill), conducted for the DOE-RL RA team. although facility management considered the drill to be satisfactory with some improvement needed, the RA team consensus was that both the conduct of the drill and the operators' response were unsatisfactory.

B. Canister Storage Building (CSB) Construction: On the morning of July 2nd a crane operator moving a large crane around the east side of the CSB lowered the crane hook and choker cable onto an energized 13.8kV power line. No one was injured and no damage occurred, but power was interrupted to several buildings in the 200 East Area. The contractor stopped crane operations at the CSB pending further investigation.

An iron worker at CSB raised a quality assurance issue this week when he noted non-conforming welds on the structural steel received from the vendor. The welds on several pieces of steel in the lay down yard were measured and found to be dimensionally smaller than required. The inspection continues and will be extended to the steel already in place at the CSB. The contractor also plans a review of acceptance inspection procedures and practices.

C. Budget Threats to DNFSB Milestones: DOE-RL continues to try to reconciling its FY98 and FY99 budgets against its commitments (e.g., Tri-Party Agreement, DNFSB milestones). DOE-RL is arranging a July 29-30 "Workout Session" with DOE-HQ, Hanford contractors, regulators and stakeholders to attempt to reconcile demands with available funds. We very clearly expect DOE- RL to approach the DNFSB about obtaining relief from existing milestones.

cc: Board Members