

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 7, 2011

TO: T. J. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: W. Linzau and R. Quirk, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending January 7, 2011

Board staff members Z. Beauvais, E. Gibson, J. MacSleyne, S. Lewis, C. Shuffler, and S. Sircar were on-site to review safety-significant equipment used in the tank farms. In addition, B. Sharpless was on-site to observe the readiness assessment for using the Trench Face Retrieval and Characterization System (TFRCS) at the 12B burial ground.

Tank Farms: The contractor used an equipment test procedure rather than an approved operating procedure to perform work. Specifically, they used the operational acceptance test procedure for the new Articulating Mast System (AMS) to move waste that was preventing the retrieval pump in single-shell tank C-104 from being lowered (see Activity Report 11/5/2010). When the site rep questioned this, both the contractor and Office of River Protection (ORP) managers stated this was an acceptable practice.

Plateau Remediation Contractor (PRC): The contractor conducted a readiness assessment (RA) of the new TFRCS at the 12B burial ground. The RA team was able to observe demonstrations of the drum retrieval techniques planned for contact- and remote-handled drums, and they watched facility personnel operate the new equipment. In addition, the team was able to evaluate the project's emergency response during a drill involving two breached drums. The site rep noted one issue during the drill because personnel were directed to re-enter the spill area without explicit approval from the person-in-charge at the incident command post. The contractor's drill team coordinator committed to investigate this issue and inform both the site rep and the RA team of the results early next week. The RA team will evaluate the data they collected and provide an outbrief of their assessment early next week.

Office of River Protection: D. Brockman, Manager of ORP and former Manager of the Richland Operations Office, retired this week.

Summary of 2010 Significant Activities at Hanford (Part 2):

- The River Corridor Closure Contractor (RCCC) completed the removal and disposal of the hot cells in Building 327 and the building was demolished to grade level.
- The Recovery Act funding resulted in a significantly increased rate of waste disposal at the Environmental Remediation Disposal Facility (ERDF). Specifically, 1.6 million tons of waste was disposed of in ERDF, almost double the amount completed in 2009.
- The RCCC completed intrusive and non-intrusive characterization of the 618-10 burial ground.
- The PRC transferred the sludge stored in the Settler Tube Tanks to an engineered container (EC) and completed the planned vacuuming of K West Basin floor sludge into another EC.
- The PRC resumed TRU shipments off-site.