

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 26, 2010

**TO:** T. J. Dwyer, Technical Director  
**FROM:** D. L. Burnfield and M. T. Sautman, Site Representatives  
**SUBJECT:** Savannah River Site Weekly Report for Week Ending March 26, 2010

**Staff Visit:** DNFSB staff (David Andersen, Joel Blackman, San Horton, and Carter Shuffler) reviewed the site Quality Assurance Program as it applies to the Waste Solidification Building. The site reps joined the other staff members in a walkdown of the construction site.

**Defense Waste Processing Facility:** SRR developed a Justification for Continued Operations for receiving high-organic strip effluent (SE) from not only the transfer line, but also the Strip Effluent Hold Tank. A specific administrative control requires that sufficient dilution water be added to the Strip Effluent Feed Tank to dilute the SE to  $\leq 87$  ppm Isopar™ L.

**Tank 48 Fluidized Bed Steam Reformer:** SRR has concluded that back-up power is required for confinement ventilation. The lack of back-up power was identified as a gap in the Tank 48 Recommendation 2004-2 Ventilation System Evaluation. SRR also believes that back-up power would help maintain negative exhaust airflow and system stability during a shutdown after loss of power.

**Tritium:** The site reps observed a Legal Weight Cask being transferred from the Tritium Extraction Facility truck bay to the cask decontamination area. The site reps pointed out the potential for the ISO container door to contact fire protection equipment. The site reps and tritium operations staff also discussed the error precursors and lessons learned from last week's Technical Safety Requirement violation as well as the applicability of lessons learned from the two recent occurrences regarding loss of breathing air from faulty placement of the plastic dust covers (see 3/19/10 report).

**Consolidated Hazards Analyses (CHA):** The Site Rep met with DOE-SR and NNSA nuclear safety staff to discuss Board concerns with CHAs and facility safety bases (see 7/15/08 and 1/12/09 Board letters).

**Savannah River National Laboratory:** Dr. Bhattacharyya resigned as lab director. The current deputy lab director, Paul Deason, will be acting director until a replacement is found.

**Saltstone:** Saltstone personnel performed a new pre-job brief to remove a contaminated bag from a waste box (see 3/5/10 and 3/19/10 reports). The site rep and SRR management observed the successful briefing of the workforce on their tasks to perform and the hazards and controls associated with the tasks.

**C-Reactor:** SRNS resumed modifications to the spent nuclear fuel transportation cask. Welders are now wearing respirators and anti-contamination clothing instead of plastic suits. SRNS had suspended welding because they had failed to address issues with burn through of plastic suits (see 2/19/10 and 3/5/10 reports).