

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 4, 2010

TO: T. J. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: D. L. Burnfield, Site Representative
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Weekly Report for Week Ending June 4, 2010

Site Representative Mark Sautman was on leave this week.

Roger Eshelman, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), formally announced his retirement effective August 31. Mr. Eshelman will be leading several special projects until his retirement. Fred Dohse, who served as SRNS Vice President for Nuclear Materials Operations, replaced Mr. Eshelman. David Eyler is working with Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding and replaces Mr. Dohse as vice president of nuclear materials operations.

H Canyon: DOE approved the H-Canyon Documented Safety Analysis upgrade thus making the DSA compliant with DOE Standard 3009 *Preparation Guide for U.S. Department of Energy Nonreactor Nuclear Facility Safety Analysis*. This action capped a three-year effort to improve the H-Canyon safety Analysis.

F/H Laboratory: The laboratory holds much of its working inventory of radioactive material in containers fabricated of glass, plastic, or metal. If this material is heated beyond its boiling point, it could become superheated and pressurize until container failure. In order to provide protection from this event, the laboratory earlier entered into a justification for continuing operation (JCO) for an extended time while the contractor isolated the fire suppression system from F-Canyon (see 5/21/10 report). Contractor personnel have restored the fire suppression system in the laboratory and exited the JCO.

Spent Nuclear Fuel: The site rep attended training on the use of the 70-ton cask for the transfer of spent nuclear fuel from L-Area to H-Canyon, held discussions on the proposed schedule, and observed the rail car to be used for the transfer. A “walk-down” of the recent railway modifications is scheduled for next week.

Integrated Safety Management (ISM) System Verification Review: Savannah River Remediation (SRR) has declared readiness for DOE-SR to conduct their ISM system verification review. DOE has scheduled this review for the week of June 21, 2010.

Saltstone: After not operating for most of 2010, operators attempted to resume grouting operations last week (see 5/28/10 report). After two failed attempts, operators performed several processing runs over the weekend. On Sunday, the system shut down when the flow from the Salt Feed Tank (SFT) dropped below alarm levels after processing for approximately an hour and a half. Engineering is once again troubleshooting the process.

Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF): DWPF received the required volume of compliant strip effluent and purged all the high organic non-compliant strip effluent (see 3/5/2010 report) from the transfer line. Operators have processed all non-compliant strip effluent and exited the JCO.