

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 26, 2012

TO: T. J. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: M. T. Sautman and D. L. Burnfield, Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Weekly Report for Week Ending October 26, 2012

F-Canyon: Workers in the truckwell box line will be repacking approximately two dozen Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) concrete containers, most of which are equipped with an inner steel box. The contents include drums, lab equipment, and other scrap items which will be repackaged into compliant transuranic waste remote-handled drums and contact-handled boxes. Based on measured dose rates and shielding, calculated dose rates inside the containers may be as high as 84 rem/hr. SRNS conducted a limited scope Readiness Assessment (RA) focused on the use of new tools and the radiological controls in the procedures. The workers demonstrated the use of the new tools and high radiation radiological controls by repacking an actual SRNL concrete container that had low dose rates. Later in the week, workers began repacking the first container, which had dose rates inside up to 1.8 rem/hr. The work was methodically performed and there was significant operations and radiological control management oversight of the evolution. SRNS used electronic dosimeters to remotely track the workers' doses real time. Actual dose rates received by the workers were minor.

SRR Conduct of Engineering Improvement: On August 27, 2012 DOE-SR provided SRR with a letter addressing numerous conduct of engineering issues that had been identified at liquid waste operations facilities. This week SRR provided DOE with an engineering performance improvement plan. According to SRR, they focused this plan on: human performance improvement, training and procedures, an engineering self-assessment process, change management, corrective action process, and performance metrics. However, the plan does not clearly provide the details that would lead one to believe that SRR actually understands the mechanisms necessary to improve the conduct of engineering.

F-Tank Farm: SRR continues its efforts to complete several major jobs in F-Tank Farms. On Tank 4, the crew were initially unable to remove the failed pump because the crane failed and later because of unexpectedly high contamination in the hut. This job must be completed before the pump in Tank 6 can be transferred to Tank 4 so that closure activities on Tank 6 can continue. SRR continues their efforts to replace the 2F Evaporator demister pad. This week personnel entered the condenser cell and removed the bolts on the flange. SRR is working to install additional ventilation for entry into the evaporator cell. They expect the job to continue through the next several weeks. Until this job is completed, work is limited on the removal of the feed pump from Tank 26, with the exception of planning and preparation of the containment because of spatial restrictions.