

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 7, 2013

TO: S. A. Stokes, Acting Technical Director
FROM: M. T. Sautman and D. L. Burnfield, Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Weekly Report for Week Ending June 7, 2013

Conduct of Operations: SRNS continues to struggle with conduct of operations issues at their Environmental Management (EM) facilities. The site reps observed briefings to SRNS operations directors, facility managers, and H-Canyon workers about recent conduct of operations events, senior leadership expectations, and corrective actions. SRNS assigned conduct of operations assessors/mentors to each nuclear facility and started having shift managers brief facility managers after each shift. Despite this, the F-Area shift operations manager (SOM) only entered 2 of the 3 required Limiting Conditions for Operations (LCO) conditions to support the calibration of pressure switches and a pressure gage related to the 235-F exhaust tunnel system. Furthermore, the SOM exited the LCOs before operators had finished returning a safety-significant (SS) interlock back to service. The SOM did not realize that the operators' restoration work was delayed because the conduct of operations assessor had identified several problems with one of their procedures. SRNS is now requiring operations management and engineering manager review of all work on SS or safety (SC) class equipment. The same managers must concur before exiting any LCO. All SRNS EM facilities are also back in deliberate operations mode.

SRNS Budget/Rec. 2012-1: Recently approved funds will allow SRNS to develop the 235-F Basis for Interim Operations that will cover deactivation work. After being on hold for most of 2013, SRNS also expects to hire work planners and field crews to support the removal of fixed combustibles, further de-energization of electrical equipment, the installation of a fire detection and alarm system, the start of mock-up training, and the development of deactivation tools. Furthermore, SRNS will begin rehiring many of the construction crews and support staff that perform equipment upgrades (e.g., K-Area electric fire pump) and corrective maintenance that were laid off last autumn.

Radiological Protection: The site reps reviewed radiological conditions at H-Canyon, F-Tank Farm, and the Defense Waste Processing Facility and found them to be stable or slightly improving. The site reps walked down areas where plastic is used to contain contamination. In general, leak collection devices (LCD) and temporary contamination areas were in good condition, despite some being in place for 5 or 6 years. The exceptions were two LCDs on the third level of H-Canyon. One funnel was partially obstructed with debris and another funnel was laying on the floor, allowing 50% nitric acid to pool in the funnel and hose rather than drain into the sump.

SRR is nearing completion on preparations for the cleanout of pump pit one in F-Tank Farm (FPP-1) and installation of a new sump pump. The contamination levels inside the sump are expected to be exceptionally high. SRR has constructed a hut to sit over the FPP-1 with several exhaust blowers. SRR is evaluating the use of a HEPA filtered inlet vents and the resulting flow path to provide an engineered contamination control.

Maintenance: During the shortened work weeks in April and May, the number of preventive maintenance deferrals by SRNS grew from 204 to 379. The number of these involving SC and SS equipment increased 167% (30 to 80). During this same period, the number of PM delinquencies increased from 10 to 16 also. Somewhat surprising, the corrective maintenance (CM) backlogs for many facilities did not significantly change between February (see 3/15/13 report) and May. One noticeable exception was that the hours of CM greater than 90 days old at L-Area increased 41%—more than double the backlog in January (4267 vs. 2094 hours). The site reps note that three recent events have involved equipment that does not work (i.e., gage, fan power light) or deferred maintenance of SS equipment. Many of the leak collection devices discussed above are for valves and flanges that have been leaking for years.