

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 24, 2014

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: P. Fox, D. Gutowski and R. Quirk, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending October 24, 2014

Tank Farms. Following recent conduct of operations events in the tank farms (see Activity Report 10/17/2014), ORP issued a letter to the contractor requesting a briefing on the causes of the events and related corrective actions.

A field work supervisor pre-briefed a job to close a tank riser. The job was not on the release sheet, and the work package used for the pre-job brief did not cover the expected work. After being questioned by a facility representative and members of the field team, the supervisor decided not to proceed with the job until a work package was developed.

The contractor is planning the removal of a pump that extends into the sludge layer of tank AY-102 to support future retrieval. Contractor management reviewed the draft work package for this activity and determined that it needed improvements to work sequencing and that some key items were not included as steps.

A team from the DOE office of Enterprise Assessments was onsite for a review of tank farms Work Planning and Control.

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). RL approved the annual update to the PFP safety basis and directed that it be implemented within 90 days. RL concluded that the changes in the annual update did not alter DOE's risk acceptance for work at PFP. The Safety Evaluation Report had no conditions of approval, but RL directed the contractor to make an improvement to a Specific Administrative Control for control of doors related to work in 242-Z of the Americium Recovery Facility. RL previously approved two other changes to the PFP safety basis, but the contractor has not implemented them yet. These changes modify the Enhanced Maintenance Plan (see Activity Report 5/2/2014) and address revisions to the company-wide Safety Management Programs. The contractor expects to implement the changes that were approved earlier in mid-November, and then implement the modifications made by the annual update.

The contractor is replacing worn cloth anti contamination clothing to reduce the potential for personnel contamination at the facility. Investigation determined that the existing clothing was losing its effectiveness due to wear and laundering (see Activity Report 10/10/2014).

100 F Area. The site reps walked down F Reactor with contractor and RL personnel. The contractor completed the second five-year survey for the reactor which was shut down in 1965 and has been in Interim Safe Storage since 2003. They found no substantial degradation or spreads of contamination within the cocooned reactor.

Waste Treatment Plant. ORP requested information from the United States Geological Survey regarding capabilities of volcanic warning systems and support for predicting airborne ash concentrations during volcanic events.