

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 1, 2015

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: P. Fox and D. Gutowski Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending May 1, 2015

D. Gutowski, was off site for training.

Tank Farms. The site rep observed the removal of the sluicer pump from pit 02E for Tank AY-102. The high hazard operation was completed without incident. The contractor will refurbish the pit and replace the pump to support retrieval of waste from the leaking tank. The contractor remains on track to start retrieval before March 4, 2016 per the agreement between ORP, the contractor, and the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP). The site rep performed a walk down of the Low Activity Waste construction site. He found that, after previously noting an improvement in conditions (see Activity Report 1/30/2015), the cleanliness and order of the site is declining. Additionally, he noted that the contractor is not using a consistent or effective approach for protecting installed equipment, and that lay down areas for uninstalled equipment are not consistently controlled and maintained. Examples of the problems were provided to the ORP Facility Representative.

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). RL approved revision 12 of the PFP DSA (see Activity Report 4/24/2015). The Board's staff is conducting a review of the approved approach for controlling hazards during final deactivation and demolition of the facility.

RL Safety Basis Approval Process. RL kicked off an initiative to improve the process that RL uses to prepare, review, and approve safety basis documents. The goal of the effort is to leverage recent experience gained from working with the contractor to reach agreement on the Sludge Treatment Project PDSA and on revision 12 of the PFP DSA and to identify and implement improvements in the overall process. The initiative is also expected to address concerns stated by the Board in a recent letter regarding risk accepted by RL in recent safety basis documents and comments received from the staff regarding the quality of products produced by the process. The effort will include both RL and contractor representatives.

DOE Public Meeting. A site rep attended the annual public meeting that DOE holds to gather input from the public regarding prioritization of work at Hanford site. The focus of this meeting was FY 2017. Both ORP and RL presented their anticipated budget appropriation and the prioritization of projects based on that expectation and reiterated their commitment to safety at the site. Representatives from the Washington State Department of Ecology and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also provided brief remarks. The RL briefing made a clear statement that the anticipated budget appropriation does not support the completion of many cleanup activities within the milestones established by the Hanford Tri-Party Agreement. Key safety-related concerns brought up by members of the public included potential delays in remediation of the contamination contained in the ground under Building 324, and potential delays in moving capsules containing strontium and cesium waste stored in the Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility to dry storage. Additionally, the public comments included a concern over the condition of the existing waste storage tanks and an opinion that new tanks were necessary to ensure safe storage of waste pending processing.