

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 21, 2015

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: P. Fox and D. Gutowski Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending August 21, 2015

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). The contractor completed the removal of the last glovebox from the highly contaminated 242-Z facility. This represents a significant milestone in preparation of the facility for final demolition. The next phase of 242-Z work isolates and prepares remaining tanks in the facility for removal during demolition.

The contractor finalized preparations and will commence demolition of 243-Z. This building is one of the few remaining support facilities associated with PFP and was used to process low level liquid waste effluent streams from the PFP complex. Removal of this building will clear area that is needed to support demolition of the Plutonium Recovery Facility and 242-Z.

618-10 Burial Grounds. During loadout activities of grouted uranium oxide drums, loose pieces of broken grout spilled from the excavator bucket out of the container. Workers attempted to clean the spilled material per procedure, but the spill was more extensive and had higher contamination levels than expected so they stopped and notified a radiological control supervisor. Radiological control restricted access to the area and the crew backed off to develop a new work package to complete the cleanup.

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP). The contractor briefed ORP on their evaluation of functional classification of the C2V and C3V ventilation systems for the Low Activity Waste (LAW) facility. This was a follow-up to a recent evaluation for the C5V system (see Activity Report 7/3/2015). None of these systems were procured or installed as safety-significant (SS) and, as with C5V, the contractor concluded that the systems did not need to be reclassified as SS. Several other new controls were recommended for inclusion into the LAW PDSA as an alternative to upgrading the classification of one or more of the ventilation systems.

Tank Farms. The site reps, with a contractor engineer, walked down the future transfer path for retrieval of waste from Tank AY-102 to Tank AP-102. Safety-significant hose-in-hose transfer lines are currently being installed either in shallow trenches with steel cover plates or in large concrete hose barns for shielding. Shielding requirements for AY-102 retrieval are higher than for similar hoses supporting C farm retrieval. The contractor also approved a work package to remove another existing pump from AY-102 to support installation of new retrieval equipment.

The contractor continued their level rise process (see Activity Report 8/14/2015) with a transfer from AP-107 to AP-104 to bring the level of AP-104 up to 458.”

Building 324. The site reps walked down the new mockup facility that will be used to demonstrate equipment and techniques for remediation of contaminated soil underneath Building 324. The mockup facility includes a full-size model of B-cell.