

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 28, 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 28, 2015

Public Hearing. Board members J. Roberson and S. Sullivan held a public hearing in Kennewick. The topic was safety culture at the Waste Treatment Plant.

Tank Farms. The contractor is continuing their response to lockout/tagout (LOTO) problems. They are performing root cause analyses for the most recent individual event as well as a comprehensive analysis to address work integration with hazardous energy controls. The supplemental work integration teams continue reviewing and approving all applicable work packages (see Activity Report 8/7/2015) and have noted improvements in package quality since the reviews started. The contractor also completed their review of all currently installed LOTOs and found no interface issues, but did note several items for follow-up by the casual analysis teams or through the corrective actions program.

The contractor completed the last of three transfers associated with the level rise for tanks AP-107 and AP-104 (see Activity Report 8/21/2015). A small transfer dropped the level in AP-104 from its test level of 458" to just below its new fill limit of 454".

Waste Treatment Plant. A site rep observed a contractor Performance Improvement Review Board meeting where senior contractor managers evaluated an effectiveness review of their corrective action management program that was completed by an external team of experts. The effectiveness review was commissioned to validate actions taken to close a Level 1 finding from an ORP quality assurance audit that determined the program was ineffective (see Activity Report 12/20/2013). The team developed criteria for the review from Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Institute of Nuclear Power Operations guidance for reviewing corrective action management programs. The team did not identify any systemic performance or compliance failures that would adversely impact the project team's ongoing efforts and concluded that the program is on a typical maturation curve for implementation of a continuously improving program. The team identified 25 recommended improvements, most of which the contractor intends to adopt. These findings largely match the site rep's observations. However, the site rep believes that the improvements remain fragile, and that the corrective action management program is under significant stress from the rapid influx of new condition reports that have been generated as the result of changed management focus and emphasis to the work force regarding use of the program. The project is on a pace to identify 2000 new items in the condition reporting system this year. This number is double the input from last year and is 3 to 4 times higher than years prior to 2014. The management team is still working to understand how to resource and manage the large increase in issues. Based on discussion during the meeting, senior managers are aware that continued attention is needed establish a sustainable and effective program.

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). The contractor has started a causal analysis to determine actions necessary to stop recent adverse trends related to radiological events and worker injuries (see activity report 8/14/15).