

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 11, 2015

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: P. Fox and D. Gutowski Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending September 11, 2015

D. Gutowski was offsite this week.

Plutonium Finishing Plant. The contractor is characterizing the location and level of the remaining contamination in the Plutonium Reclamation Facility (PRF) canyon. Procedures and equipment developed by Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) are being used by the contractor to perform the work and SRNL personnel are on site to support the effort. The contractor will use characterization results to inform plans for the remaining PRF canyon decontamination work.

The contractor is performing a causal analysis to define actions necessary to curtail recent adverse trends in worker injuries and radiological incidents (see activity report 8/28/15). This week DOE RL sent a letter to the contractor that addressed the radiological control incidents. The letter states that, pending completion of the causal analysis, strong compensatory measures might be required to prevent occurrence of events with potentially significant consequences. RL also noted that the contractor reporting related to the recent events has not been as conservative as past practice. DOE RL requested a briefing within 10 days regarding compensatory measures.

Tank Farms. The contractor Safety Basis Change Review Board and Plant Review Committee approved three significant DSA and TSR changes. The changes clarify allowed actions when a safety-significant waste transfer line fails pneumatic testing; clarify the definition for the “time of discovery” which starts the clock for certain time based actions; and increases the surveillance frequency for two single shell tanks.

The contractor completed the removal of a failed transfer pump from tank AY-102. The pump will be replaced to support retrieval of waste from the leaking tank. Additionally, the contractor installed two new extended reach sluicing systems into tank C-111 and anticipates continuing retrieval from the tank next month. The contractor also completed a transfer from tank AZ-102 to AW-102. This transfer supports evaporator campaign 3, which will start next week.

River Corridor Closure Project. The site rep observed mockup activities related to contractor remediation of vertical pipe units (VPUs) that contain radioactive waste. The purpose of the mockup activity was to demonstrate the equipment and procedures that the contractor will use to support the remediation of 79 of the 94 VPUs located in the 618-10 burial grounds, and to provide training for the workers who will perform the task. The remaining 15 VPUs will be remediated at a later date using a different technique. Overall, the evolution was controlled and professionally executed. The contractor intends to declare readiness to start next week and will perform a readiness assessment using a graded approach per their plan of action.

DOE EM-1 Visit. Dr. Monica Regalbuto, DOE EM-1, was on site for facility walk downs and meetings with both ORP and RL.