

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 31, 2015

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: P. Fox and D. Gutowski Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending January 1, 2016

222-S Laboratory. The site reps walked down newly installed fume hoods in rooms 4S and 1GB that will be used for radiological work. They discussed post-construction operations acceptance of the work with laboratory personnel. During the walk down, they noted that the contractor used a “restricted use” process to control post-installation startup of the hoods and determined that log book entries required by the contractor’s governing procedure for this process had not been completed. The procedure lacks specific guidance regarding the establishment and clearance of restrictions. Additionally, the site reps observed that air monitors in front of some of the hood faces were secured with silicone adhesive rather than fasteners. This use of silicone adhesive appears to be a widespread practice at the lab. They discussed their observations with laboratory management.

The contractor completed the event investigation for a small spill last month of filtered acid digest solution from a Tank C-105 sample. They were unable to determine how material escaped from the capped sample vial when dropped, but did identify a recent change to vial handling protocols. They also plan to evaluate the operating procedure and the abnormal operating procedure that address spills to ensure consistency of expected actions regarding stabilization of event scenes prior to exiting.

Tank Farms. The site reps met with the Tank Farms Manager, Production Control, to discuss proposed revisions to the Tank Farms work release process. His intent is to establish a consistent work release process that improves coordination, reduces interface issues, improves use of resources, and reduces late changes in scheduled work. The approach he presented proposes the use of work week managers. Each work week manager is assigned to coordinate work release for a specific week and each goes through a rotating four week cycle of preparation that ensures that proposed work is communicated and scheduled, scheduled jobs are ready to work, interface or interference issues are identified and resolved, and that appropriate resources are committed. The work week manager then supports execution of the work, ensuring that emergent issues are appropriately addressed. The plan will be presented to the Executive Safety Review Board for approval early in the calendar year.

The site rep observed control room activities supporting C-111 retrieval. Retrieval was secured at the end of the week due to shutdown of the portable exhaust skid.

618-10 Burial Grounds. The contractor received a modified clamshell digging tool for retrieval of augered vertical pipe units. The tool had been sent back to the vendor for modifications based on lessons-learned from acceptance testing earlier this month (see Activity Report 12/11/2015).