

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 8, 2016

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: P. Fox and D. Gutowski Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending January 8, 2016

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). The contractor's Plant Review Committee met and determined that all pre-implementation requirements are complete to support implementation of revision 12 of the DSA. Implementation will occur on January 11, 2016. After implementation, facility safety will be less reliant on the active confinement and fire protection systems and more reliant on safety management programs. This revision supports removal of remaining large equipment items from the facility by allowing modification of ventilation boundaries.

The contractor briefed RL regarding their plans to exit the ongoing high hazard work suspension (see Activity Report 12/18/2015). RL approved the plan and the contractor is performing a controlled ramp up of their high hazard work. Among other actions, the plan includes a follow-up review by the corporate assessment team, increased radiological control oversight, and implementation of a peer observation program.

100K West Area. The contractor held a critique following discovery of fixed and removable contamination on a radiological survey instrument in a Radiological Buffer Area/Radiological Material Area during a weekly surveillance. The worker who discovered the instrument responded appropriately and there was no further spread of contamination. The contractor was already reviewing their clearance release program due to recent events involving the release of potentially contaminated equipment (see Activity Reports 12/18/2015 and 12/25/2015).

Tank Farms. The contractor developed a modified approach for clearing the waste from the plugged pump in Tank AW-106 (see Weekly Report 12/18/2015). They plan to raise the pump out of the tank and punch a hole in the lower end of the pump column which will be in a pit. The intent is to create a new flow path to drain any material from the pump column above the plug. They performed a process hazards analysis and are evaluating whether the hazards associated with this evolution are bounded by pipe flushing activities.

The contractor's Joint Review Group reconvened and approved a work package for AY-102 ventilation work (see Activity Report 12/11/2015). The package had substantially more detail and now requires sleeving around a component with unknown levels of internal contamination.

The contractor is nearing readiness for supernate transfers and sludge retrieval from Tank AY-102. They are using an Operational Readiness Checklist process.

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP). ORP issued the Performance Evaluation and Measurement Plan (PEMP) that will be used to determine contractor award fees for calendar year 2016. The PEMP emphasizes nuclear safety, worker safety, quality, and technical issue resolution.

Site Wide. The site shut down on Wednesday due to hazardous weather conditions. Only minimum safe activities continued.