

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 30, 2015

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: M. T. Sautman, and D. L. Burnfield Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Weekly Report for Week Ending December 30, 2015

DOE Oversight of SRNS Emergency Management: DOE used the subjective fee portion of the fiscal year 2015 Performance and Evaluation Plan to highlight that SRNS Emergency Management planning, resources, and conduct of drills that did not meet DOE expectations. These included:

- Repeated performance deficiencies involving Radiological Protection during training drills along with issues regarding how the Fire Department conducts a scene size up and establishes their Command Post.
- SRNS failed to conduct effectiveness reviews for issues that re-occur, such as the placement of fire department resources during drills, which resulted in the fire department personnel potentially being in the plume of a simulated radiological release.
- Numerous performance issues involving controller and role players which greatly impacted the results of drills and exercises.

SRNS Fire Protection Engineering: Maintaining adequate numbers of qualified fire protection engineers remains challenging due to the high competitiveness in this field. During 2015, not only did more staff leave than were hired, but several of the new hires will need more than a year to become qualified due to their level of experience. Currently, SRNS has eight qualified FPEs and they need a total of sixteen.

SRS Fire Department (SRSFD): The Board's December 4, 2009 letter highlighted concerns with the age of the SRSFD apparatus fleet. Since that letter was issued, SRNS replaced two engines, a ladder truck, and is remounting some of the ambulances. That being said, the SRSFD still has three engines that are 22 years old. One of these is out-of-service, one is used as a backup, and one is still used as a primary response vehicle. Funding dependent, SRNS hopes to begin replacing those engines one per year starting in fiscal year 2017.

Tank Farms: During the last several weeks, SRR personnel have been working to repair leaks in the chromate cooling water system on the East Hill of H-Tank Farms. As a part of these repairs, SRR dug an excavation and locked out the instrument air-line that passed through the excavation. During the course of the repairs, SRR revised the lockout permit six times. Since the lockout permit was becoming confusing, SRR decided to issue a new lockout permit which was to be a duplicate of the current version of the lockout permit. When the preparer wrote the new lockout permit, however, he used the original version of the lockout in lieu of the current version. Tank Farms personnel then approved this new lockout permit and established the lockout. However, since the new permit was based on an out-of-date version, this resulted in a valve not being controlled as was intended in the previous version of the lockout permit. SRR conducted a fact-finding and is taking appropriate actions.