

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 1, 2016

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

DNFSB Staff Activity. Members of the staff held a teleconference to close out the recent review of seismic risk for the REDOX facility and potential impacts to the 222-S Laboratory. Additionally, members of the staff participated in a teleconference to receive follow-up information regarding the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility ventilation final design.

Tank Farms. The contractor declared a TSR violation last week. At least one safety-significant valve credited for double-valve isolation (DVI) had been used in transfers without proper in service inspections. The contractor implemented operational restrictions on transfers until DVIs associated with those transfer paths were re-inspected or verified. They are also evaluating their maintenance processes. The DVI valves associated with the AP-104 to AW-102 transfer were cleared and the site rep observed field and control room activities for the transfer start.

The site rep observed control room activities for the successful commencement of sludge waste retrieval from AY-102 to AP-102 on Thursday night shift. Equipment issues from previous startup attempts have been resolved. The contractor also completed retrieval for tank C-111.

The contractor determined that the Potential Inadequacy in the Safety Analysis related to pressure transmitters in AY/AZ Farms (see Activity Report 3/18/2016) constituted a positive Unreviewed Safety Question. Operational restrictions against using wide range pressure transmitters for TSR compliance remain in place.

Plutonium Finishing Plant. A site rep observed a contractor Hazard Review Board (HRB) meeting that reviewed a work package supporting pressure washing and painting of the Plutonium Reclamation Facility canyon walls. He noted that the contractor did not adhere to scheduling guidance included in the contractor's HRB procedure. This guidance is designed to help ensure deliberate and high quality reviews of high hazard work procedures. This is the second time in a month where work packages have been rushed through the HRB process. The site representative also notes that three recent causal analyses have identified significant issues linked to the work planning process, and that the contractor planning organization staffing does not appear adequate to support deliberate review of work documents related to high hazard work.

618-10 Burial Grounds. The contractor commenced retrieval of low-level waste from augered and characterized Vertical Pipe Units (see activity reports 2/27/2015 and 10/2/2015). The material is removed from the overcasings, placed into a waste box, and mixed with grout.

T-Plant. The contractor has started removal of obsolete, unused equipment from T-Plant to support access for storage of K-Basin sludge (see activity report 3/18/2016).

Office of River Protection. A new facility representative completed final qualifications and will be assigned to oversight of Tank Farms Production Operations.