

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 12, 2016

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: P. Fox and D. Gutowski Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending May 13, 2016

Plutonium Finishing Plant. The contractor removed glovebox HC-4 from 234-5Z via the opening that was cut in the wall between rooms 166 and 169 (see Activity Report 4/28/2016). Efforts to remove the glovebox were hampered by work planning and execution issues including staging of the wrong type of shipping container, excessive clutter in the transit path, and errors in the associated non-destructive assay calculation (see Activity Report 5/6/2016). The work planning and execution issues are similar to those that occurred during work to cut the access opening (see Activity Report 4/28/2016). The contractor held a critique to identify lessons learned that could be applied to future work efforts.

The site rep observed work activities to clear the transit path for removal of HC-4 from the facility. During the pre-job brief, workers raised concerns regarding the plan to restage used waste containers in room 170 without having a clear status of the contents and the state of the internal packaging. The Field Work Supervisor resolved the questions and the workers accomplished the work in a professional manner.

A hole was found in the Level B suit of an individual who was working in 242-Z. The worker immediately performed a controlled egress. Contamination was found inside the Level B suit, but it did not breach the inner set of anti-contamination clothing.

Tank Farms. The contractor provided briefings to the entire workforce regarding chemical vapor safety (see Activity Report 5/6/2016). The presentations covered recent events, implementation status for Tank Vapor Assessment Team recommendations, and attempted to answer worker questions and concerns.

The site rep observed Extended Reach Sluicer System (ERSS) mockup training at the Cold Test Facility. Retrieval crews are practicing moving the ERSS around simulated air lift circulator obstacles in preparation for the continuation of AY-102 retrieval.

Sludge Treatment Project. The site rep observed work related to performance of the Engineered Container Retrieval and Transfer System Preoperational Acceptance Testing. The contractor is completing equipment configuration and water baseline checks and expects to transition to interlock functionality checks next week. In addition to validating system performance, they continue to use the testing effort to identify and incorporate system improvements prior to installation of the system in the K-west basin facility.

Waste Treatment Plant. The site reps met with the contractor Manager of Design, Operation, and Integration and ORP Chief Engineer. They described plans to improve tracking and communication of efforts supporting closure of issues communicated by the Board.

Effluent Treatment Facility. The contractor completed their operational readiness checklist for restart of the facility after a lengthy shutdown and completion of a transition of facility responsibility from the Central Plateau Contractor to the Tank Farms Contractor.