

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 10, 2016

**TO:** S. A. Stokes, Technical Director  
**FROM:** P. Fox and D. Gutowski Hanford Site Representatives  
**SUBJECT:** Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending June 10, 2016

**Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP).** The contractor reported a waste characterization error when Perma-Fix Northwest found previously unidentified lead in a glove box that had been received from PFP for downsizing. They subsequently determined that the presence of the lead did not affect nondestructive assay results for the glove box. Although, in this case, the effect of the incomplete characterization was limited to an improper transportation manifest and incorrect transportation marking, the event did reveal a potential weakness in the waste characterization process that could result in more significant problems. The site rep notes that this event follows a similar error that was caught by the waste manager just before a shipping activity took place (see Activity Report 5/6/2016). The contractor held an event investigation and is evaluating the information to determine actions that they can take to improve the waste characterization process.

**Tank Farms.** The site rep observed field work by construction forces to clean out the AX04A pit in AX farm. Other work in the farm included installations supporting the new portable exhausters in AX farm and AX02D pit cleanout. Heat stress was a major concern for these jobs due to high temperatures early in the week. Workers wear anti-contamination coveralls and are on supplied air in AX farm. The contractor has elected not to move construction forces onto graveyard shifts this summer (see Activity Report 6/12/2015). Instead, they are relying on physiological monitoring of field workers for heat stress. This is an alternative to work/rest regimens which remains an option at the tank farms and are used by other facilities to address heat stress concerns.

The contractor's Joint Review Group approved the work package to remove the plugged pump from AP-106 using newly developed equipment (see Activity Report 5/6/2016).

The contractor completed a transfer of approximately 500,000 gallons from AY-101 to AW-102 to feed the next evaporator campaign. The transfer was performed intermittently over the weekend and two workweek night shifts to avoid vapor concerns during this waste disturbing activity.

**Waste Treatment Plant (WTP).** ORP sent a letter (16-WTP-0114) to the contractor that communicates expectations regarding contractor actions to resolve the eleven deficiencies noted in the Board's letter dated April 4, 2016 regarding handling and storage of material intended to be installed in systems important to safety. The contractor subsequently issued condition reports for each of the deficiencies and has completed several remedial actions. They are actively working a number of initiatives to resolve the outstanding deficiencies.

**Hanford Advisory Board (HAB).** A site rep observed portions of a meeting of the full HAB including the Tri Party Agreement program reports and a safety culture sounding board. The HAB also worked white papers regarding Cesium Management and Disposition Alternatives and WTP Communications Approach.