

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 22, 2016

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: P. Fox and D. Gutowski Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending July 22, 2016

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP). The contractor issued a preliminary calculation for the Final Hazard Categorization of the Low Activity Waste (LAW) Facility. It states that the inventory in LAW during Pretreatment operations will be 80% of the Hazard Category (HC)-2 threshold and therefore concludes that LAW is a HC-3 facility. In 2013, the contractor evaluated LAW to be a HC-2 facility. Prior to that it was HC-3. The new calculation uses preliminary revised data for waste stream activities and adjusts threshold quantity values for LAW glass containers.

The site reps walked down several laydown areas at the WTP construction site with the contractor Manager for Quality and Functions and an ORP representative to discuss ongoing efforts to implement improvements in storage practices for safety-related material awaiting installation. The site reps noted that storage conditions at the site are generally trending in the positive direction. The contractor manager emphasized that they are working to implement consistent standards across both the construction and procurement organizations to ensure that stored material is adequately maintained.

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). DOE negotiated a change to the Tri Party Agreement milestone for completing demolition of PFP to a slab on grade condition. The revised date extends the milestone one year to September 30, 2017.

Workers completed the application of fixative to the internal surfaces of the 242-Z Americium Recovery Facility. Based on post application surveys, the contractor determined contamination levels no longer require Level B personal protective equipment (PPE). This was the last work requiring Level B PPE. Remaining work, which includes grouting of a sump, final electrical and mechanical isolations, and final characterization will be performed using less cumbersome PPE.

The contractor held a critique for an RWP violation. Contrary to the RWP, scaffolding was built in a non-characterized area without continuous radiological control coverage. This is similar to a May event (see Activity Report 6/3/2016). The site rep notes that, although this is a predictable event when constructing scaffolding, the work package does not contain procedural steps or precautions to assist worker recognition of this requirement. Instead, the contractor relied solely on a statement in the RWP to preclude this type of event. That statement was not covered when the RWP was discussed at the pre-job brief.

222-S Laboratory. In March, a crack was discovered downstream of the EF-3 exhaust fan. This crack, which is after the HEPA filters, grew to form a flap. The Lab was on operational restriction until the EF-3 duct was repaired and the fan restarted.

Tank Farms. The contractor placed the fourth and final extended reach sluicer into AY-102. Electrical and mechanical connections are in progress.

The contractor is performing testing on air-purifying respirator cartridges using a selection of tanks and exhaust stacks as sources.