

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 29, 2016

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: M. T. Sautman and Z. C. McCabe, Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Weekly Report for Week Ending July 29, 2016

DNFSB Staff Activity: On Monday through Thursday, Deputy Technical Director R.E. Tontodonato observed the activities of the site reps.

Commercial Grade Dedication (CGD): SRNS currently has a backlog of 73 CGDs to support corrective maintenance work orders. SRNS has nine preventive maintenance (PM) deferrals due to parts that require CGDs and there are an additional 304 CGDs needed to support planned PM work. The time to develop, review, approve, and issue each CGD ranges from 80 hours for a simple item to about 160 hours. SRNS currently has 15 individuals who support the CGD program full time. Many of the above CGDs are for diesel generators (DG) making them critical due to the planned DG outages planned in the coming months. SRNS Engineering is trying to get approval to hire several more engineers to support CGDs in the next few months to prevent a cascading effect if they are unable to support the planned schedule of DG outages. In order to increase their efficiency in developing CGDs, SRNS is pursuing expanding their membership with the Electric Power Research Institute in order to gain access to their critical characteristics database for common parts.

SRNS completed testing of the bonding strength of the epoxy they plan to use to repair the hole in the A-Area Fire Water Tank. The tests examined how well the epoxy would cure underwater to both a bitumastic coating and bare metal. This testing was on the critical path for the permanent repair (see 6/10/16 report).

Training: The Tritium personnel would like to assign a qualified trainer to each of the four rotating shifts to support 24/7 on-the-job and simulator training. While Tritium has three qualified simulator instructors, use of the simulator is dependent on the availability of the one person who actually runs the simulator. The Saltstone simulator has not been used or updated since October 2015 and operation of dry feed controls is not part of the simulator. In order to support the upcoming switch from day-shift only to 24/7 operations, SRR will need to update their courses and study guides for initial qualifications and train a sufficient number of instructors to support the anticipated training demands. Additionally, the DOS-based H-Tank Farms 2H Evaporator simulator is antiquated and does not reflect the actual control room conditions.

Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL): SRNL mechanics performed minor maintenance that involved replacing a fan belt on a general service exhaust fan in a contamination area. The room exhaust fan was shut down and the room supply fan was still operating during the work causing the room to become positive with respect to the hallway. Prior to beginning the work the mechanics discussed the job with radiological control (RadCon) to ensure the proper precautions were taken. However, RadCon was not aware that the work would affect the room's ventilation and therefore the work area was not posted as an airborne contamination area. Additionally, the mechanics discussed the job with the shift operations manager (SOM) during an informal prejob brief, and the SOM specifically asked whether RadCon was informed of the job before releasing the work. Once the mistake was noticed, the mechanics had already completed the job and were exiting. RadCon did not find any contamination on the mechanics or outside the room. SRNL personnel are still determining the proper corrective actions to avoid similar work planning and miscommunication issues.