

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 1, 2017

TO: Steven Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: Bradford Sharpless, Idaho Cleanup Project Cognizant Engineer
SUBJECT: Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Report for November 2017

DNFSB Staff Activity. The Board's staff did not conduct any on-site oversight activities at INL during November 2017. The Board's staff provided an average of 1.5 person-weeks per month of on-site oversight for the first two months of fiscal year 2018.

Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP). On November 17, 2017, contractor management discovered a Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) that had been installed at AMWTP without the required Primary Authorized Employee (PAE) review and approval. AMWTP maintenance workers were performing pre-winter checks on a heater unit in Building WMF-634 that required the LOTO. After workers had hung the locks and tags prior to work being performed, the on-duty Senior Supervisory Watch (SSW) stopped through the area and requested to review the LOTO paperwork. The SSW discovered that the LOTO record sheet was not signed by the PAE as required. The SSW (also serving as the on-duty Nuclear Facility Manager (NFM)) directed the workers to not perform work on the system. After further investigation, the SSW/NFM discovered that the LOTO danger tags were also missing the PAE signatures. The SSW/NFM then stopped the job and a fact finding meeting was convened.

The following information was identified during the fact finding process:

- The LOTO had been prepared by the previous crew on November 16, 2017, but had not been presented to the PAE for approval.
- The work was released by the WMF-634 operations supervisor.
- The Job Supervisor/Foreman discussed the need for a LOTO during the pre-job brief, but did not check to see if the LOTO paperwork that was turned over was complete.
- The work was approved on the Plan of the Day and the Work Order had been reviewed in accordance with controlling document EMD-44.
- The mechanic who installed the LOTO had not hung a LOTO since the associated documents were updated to reflect the Idaho Cleanup Project procedures.
- Several other discrepancies were noted on the LOTO record sheet and danger tags.

Following the fact finding meeting, the NFM directed the locks and tags to be removed and the Work Order to be re-released when the PAE had approved the LOTO.