

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 27, 2020

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: B. Caleca and P. Fox, Hanford Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending March 27, 2020

DNFSB Staff Activity: DOE provided written responses to a Board's technical staff agenda that supports a review of DOE's implementation of 10-year seismic hazard assessments at Hanford site.

Hanford Site: Hanford site DOE and contractor management continue to follow federal and state guidance to reduce the transmission of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) (see 3/20/2020 report). This week, the governor of Washington State issued an order which prohibits non-essential social and work activities that increase the potential for COVID-19 spread. It will remain in place through April 6, 2020 and is applicable to some site work. To implement the restrictions delineated in the order, DOE and contractor management completed a review of ongoing fieldwork activities and are limiting work to those tasks that are considered essential mission critical operations. This includes the completion of technical safety requirement surveillances. The onsite workforce has been reduced to only those personnel necessary to complete the identified activities. Those individuals represent a very small fraction of the Hanford site workforce. Additionally, contractor management worked with workforce representatives to review and modify equipment and work area sanitation procedures, and to establish work practices that support adequate social distancing in order to protect the workers who must report for work. Those actions have been communicated to the work force and associated stop work actions have been lifted. Most non-manual workers have successfully transitioned to telework, which allows continuation of many non-field work related activities. A number of members of the workforce have been tested for COVID-19. To date, DOE Hanford has not been informed of any confirmed COVID-19 cases for Hanford site employees. However, results have not been received for all of the individuals. DOE and contractor managers are also evaluating potential longer-term impacts to site operations, and identifying actions necessary to resume normal operations, when restrictions are relaxed.

Tank Side Cesium Removal (TSCR) System: A Tank Farms Operations Contractor subcontractor completed factory acceptance testing of TSCR system modular components. A resident inspector observed some testing and noted that test conduct was formal, test personnel were closely following a detailed procedure, and that the equipment enclosures were clean and well-maintained. The equipment will be installed after the correction of minor deficiencies and when construction of the supporting onsite infrastructure is complete. Construction start is awaiting completion of required environmental permit actions.

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP): This week, a resident inspector observed Process Hazards Analysis (PrHA) meetings for the WTP High Level Waste facility canister handling operations. With contractor engineering personnel teleworking, the meetings were held using videoconferencing tools and shared file access. The resident inspector noted that while there were occasional connectivity issues for all participants, the meetings were productive and showed strong collaboration between participants.