

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 17, 2020

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: M. T. Sautman and Z. C. McCabe, Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Activity Report for Week Ending April 17, 2020

COVID-19: SRS has eight officially confirmed positive cases. The site staffing level remains at a similar level to the previous week with approximately 30% of the workforce on site and the remainder at home (teleworking if able) as per South Carolina and Georgia guidance. SRS personnel have procured approximately 50 thermometers (and are awaiting a shipment of hundreds more) and are continuing to set up temperature monitoring stations at the facilities across the site. Site personnel have continued to produce cloth face coverings for site personnel for use per Center for Disease Control guidance. Additionally, site personnel have begun manufacturing face shields for onsite use.

The Surplus Plutonium Disposition (SPD) Project was considered essential and thus was not halted as part of the partial stop work order issued by DOE-SR. After personnel involved in the construction efforts became sick (later determined to not be COVID-19) and others raised concerns, construction work was placed on a temporary stand down. The stand down will remain in place until the SPD Project Management Control Plan (MCP) for resuming work is approved and implemented. SRNS convened a Senior Management Review Board this week to discuss the SPD Project MCP for returning to work. The draft plan provides the Project COVID-19 guidelines for returning to work including additional precautions and expectations such as wearing a cloth face cover whenever possible and holding more frequent meetings and discussions to refocus and go over any impacts precautions due to COVID-19 will have on individual tasks. SRNS personnel are resolving comments on the MCP and are planning to resume field work once the plan is approved and implemented.

The Infectious Disease Response Team has developed a site-wide plan for a deliberate resumption of work when appropriate. SRNS personnel provided DOE-SR a copy and are in the process of incorporating comments.

Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL): Several weeks ago, while cleaning out cell block B of the shielded cells for the upcoming cell window replacement, SRNL personnel discovered some material in a low point of a cell. This material appeared similar to material SRNL personnel found during the clean out of cell block A that was determined to be a reportable quantity of radiological material. Once discovered, SRNL personnel informed the appropriate individuals and took measures to prevent unauthorized access. SRNL personnel analyzed the material and determined that it, too, exceeded the minimum reportable quantities threshold. Prior to resuming work (currently on hold due to COVID-19), SRNL personnel will enter the material into their tracking database and utilize the appropriate controls.

H-Canyon: Personnel have begun the Implementation Verification Review of revision 14 of the Documented Safety Analysis and Technical Safety Requirements, which include the alternative post-seismic control strategy. This strategy no longer relies on the H-Canyon Exhaust Tunnel as a safety class control during and after a design basis earthquake.