

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 3, 2020

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: Timothy L. Hunt, Cognizant Engineer
SUBJECT: Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Report for June 2020

DNFSB Staff Activity: No staff members were on site during June 2020.

COVID-19 Response Update. On June 25, 2020, the state of Idaho extended the final stage (Stage 4) of its Idaho Rebounds plan for at least another two weeks (to July 11, 2020) because it did not meet epidemiologic and healthcare metrics. The number of reported cases and healthcare workers with COVID-19 had trended upward in the preceding two weeks as did the percentage of positive tests. Fluor Idaho began transition to Phase 2 of its Reconstitution Plan on June 3, 2020, had it fully implemented on June 30, 2020.

Hazardous Energy Control Process Violation. Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) electricians entered the utility tunnel by the north entrance to perform their monthly preventive maintenance walkdown. Due to construction in the tunnel, force account personnel had previously posted signs requiring entrants to be logged on to a Level II lockout/tagout (LO/TO) in order to access the tunnel. The construction activities for which the LO/TO had been applied had been curtailed as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response. The north rope and sign designating the LO/TO boundary had apparently blown off or fallen down. The electricians were not aware of the requirement to sign onto the LO/TO until they discovered a sign at the far end of the tunnel. Information presented at the fact finding indicated that hazardous energy control process violations had occurred on at least four occasions. In addition, no daily or standing order provided information on the LO/TO for utility tunnel entries. Fluor Idaho management suspended maintenance activities in the utility tunnel while developing a daily order.

Repeated Unintended Fire Water Flow and Alarms at INTEC Facilities. On June 6, 2020, the CPP-604 and CPP-605 waste and support buildings received inadvertent water flow alarms. No sprinklers actuated but the exterior drainpipe for the fire system had water flowing while the alarm sounded. The INL fire department responded and, finding no sign of a fire, secured the inside alarm and water flow at the fire riser. The event was similar in nature to an event that occurred two days earlier. INTEC Life Safety issued a 7-day impairment to address this system problem with personnel performing 2-hour roving fire watches at affected facilities. Life Safety is also investigating the cause of the alarm and water flow.

Respirator Hose Disconnected from Face Mask at Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP). On June 18, 2020, a technician was working in a posted airborne contamination area (ACA) when the hose connecting the powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) to the face mask disconnected. The governing procedure for respirator use mandates verification that all connections are tight prior to use. The technician's PAPR had been visually checked by two radiological control technicians prior to entry into the ACA for tape and tight connections. An industrial hygienist inspected the PAPR hose and found no damage. At the time of the event, air sampler results indicated no airborne radioactivity was in the area and surveys/swabs were negative. The technician was placed on the bioassay program and is awaiting results.