DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 26, 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 June 26, 2020

L-Area: When a bulb didn't illuminate as expected on a control panel, an operator decided to replace it. It is not necessary to open the control panel to change the bulb. Only removing the bulb cover is necessary to access and then pull out the bulb with the appropriate tool. The operator, who had performed this task dozens of times over their career, obtained the same wooden-handled tool they had used many times. When the operator attempted to remove the bulb, they heard glass breaking and then saw a spark. The operator stopped and removed the tool and a piece of the bulb (charred) fell to the floor. Operations personnel called a time-out and informed the shift operations manager of the issue who directed them to barricade the control panel. SRNS convened an issue review to discuss the event and found themselves uncertain whether this tool is appropriate for operations personnel to use. As such, management and site electrical subject matter experts have placed a site-wide hold on non-qualified electrical workers using the tool in question until they can evaluate if it is appropriate.

Salt Waste Processing Facility: The resident inspector (RI) observed the removal of a salt solution feed pump under simulated radiological conditions. The RI also observed a control room tabletop drill involving a simulated contaminated injured person who was wearing respiratory protection. The RI also observed a Limited Scope Performance Test with an Area Emergency Coordinator to verify proficiency in procedural compliance for a simulated deflagration. All of the above were part of corrective actions to address findings from the DOE Operational Readiness Review (DORR). The performances of each event showed improvements compared to what was observed during the DORR.



The above section has been redacted because DOE has marked the information as Official Use Only.

HB-Line: SRNS completed placing the facility in safe shutdown status consistent with their layup plan.

Defense Waste Processing Facility: Workers installed a single point lockout/tagout on the wrong cabinet. As a result, they performed a post maintenance test on a variable frequency drive for the incorrect vessel transfer pump. The workers reportedly had found the correct cabinet, but then did something else and started work on the wrong one when they returned.

Savannah River National Laboratory: The new fire water tank was placed into service. This replaces an old tank that has leaked in the past.