

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 25, 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 November 27, 2020

Central Sanitary Wastewater Treatment Facility (CSWTF): CSWTF is a permitted biological treatment facility for sanitary wastewater from most of the processing and administrative areas at SRS. Solids resulting from the treatment process are concentrated and dried for later land application onto a permitted onsite location. During the latest biannual sampling of waste sludge on the drying bed for radionuclides, the concentration of Sr-89/90 (673 pCi/g) was more than 650 times historical levels. Additional samples from the storage shed and sludge on the drying bed also had higher levels of Sr-89/90. During the investigation to determine the source of contamination, radiological surveys found 150,000 dpm/100 cm² beta-gamma on a pump that had recently been removed from the F-Area lift station. (The lift station is located near Tank 34 at F-Tank Farms, but is outside the fence). This pump had been placed under the CSWTF sludge shed to be rebuilt later. The contractor performed whole body counts and fast scans (all negative) and is taking bioassay samples from workers who worked on the affected equipment or moved the sludge to the sludge shed.

Salt Waste Processing Facility: Parsons processed the first batch of undiluted feed through the caustic side solvent extraction process. Parsons encountered hard shutdowns due to equipment issues when they tried to start up the process the next three times.