

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 30, 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 January 1, 2021

Tank Farms: In response to a positive Unreviewed Safety Question, SRR developed an Evaluation of the Safety of the Situation (ESS) for Trace Organics Contribution to CLFL (i.e., composite lower flammability limit) at Temperature Greater than 100 degrees Celsius. One of the compensatory measures in the ESS was to prohibit waste transfers to Tanks 38 and 43 except for waste transfers from Tanks 22, 38, and 43. Per the safety basis, transfers from secondary containment sumps are considered to be waste transfers unless the sump contents have a sufficiently low inhalation dose potential that any release could not challenge the evaluation guidelines. A shift operations manager preparing for a transfer into 43 questioned whether recent transfers from the H Diversion Box 7 sump to Tank 38 (performed multiple times a week, usually due to rainwater intrusion) and from the 2H Evaporator cell sump to Tank 43 had violated the compensatory measure as written. While SRR expects that Engineering evaluations will confirm that these sump transfers would not challenge the evaluation guidelines, SRR declared that they had violated the ESS compensatory measure since they had not been evaluated at the time of the transfers. Because the control was in an ESS rather than in the Technical Safety Requirements (TSR), this event was categorized as a noncompliance with a credited hazard control, a low report level, rather than a TSR violation.

Covid-19: In the last 7 days, the cumulative number of positive cases at SRS increased by 131 to 1207. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has approved SRS as a Covid-19 vaccination point for site employees only. Doses will be provided to employees based on their priority.

Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF): Preliminary data indicates that Parsons exceeded the desired throughput rate during the recent Process Capacity Performance Test. Parsons is performing plant maintenance in preparations to starting one year of processing per their contract.