

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 2, 2021

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: Timothy L. Hunt, Cognizant Engineer
SUBJECT: Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Report for March 2021

DNFSB Staff Activity: No staff members were on site during March 2021.

COVID-19 Update. INL entered Phase 2 of its Reconstitution Plan on June 3, 2020, and continued in Phase 2 throughout March 2021. The state of Idaho returned to Stage 3 of its Idaho Rebounds plan on January 29, 2021 and remained there during March 2021.

Critical Preventive Maintenance (PM) Missed at Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC). On March 25, 2021, INTEC environmental personnel determined that an essential monthly Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) preventive maintenance inspection for the voice paging-evacuation portion of the plant emergency communication system (ECS) had not been performed in February 2021, a violation of the RCRA Permit. The February checks were completed on March 3, 2021. INTEC environmental personnel became aware of the missed PM on March 25, 2021 and notified the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) of the missed check. IDEQ had previously agreed that if they were notified prior to INL exceeding a required RCRA inspection for COVID-19 reasons, allowances could be made. The monthly RCRA check had been scheduled for February 19 but on February 17 Life Safety personnel that perform the check were placed on COVID-19 quarantine. The monthly check was rescheduled for February 26 but due to restrictions on overtime, the check was postponed again. The regulatory reason for the monthly check was not communicated when overtime had been evaluated and no one notified INTEC environmental prior to the end of February that COVID-19 had impacted the ability to perform the monthly check.

Idaho Cleanup Project Startup Notification Report (SNR). On March 10, 2021, Fluor Idaho issued its semiannual update to its SNR. This SNR identifies three new activities, two previously approved activities, and one activity pending DOE approval. Of particular interest are the previously approved readiness activities to support startup and operation of the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU). The three remaining readiness activities (a contractor management self-assessment (MSA) focused on readiness of INTEC to support tank waste transfers to IWTU was completed in March 2021) prior to commencement of radiological operations include:

- An MSA toward the end of Outage J focused on both IWTU and the INTEC interfaces necessary to support operations;
- A contractor readiness assessment (RA) and DOE RA following Outage J and prior to the confirmatory run to evaluate personnel, plant modifications, safety basis documentation, and the radiological protection program;
- A contractor RA and DOE RA to evaluate readiness to start radiological operations will be performed during the confirmatory run, with a focus on implementation of radiological practices and procedures during operations and maintenance.

The estimated start dates noted in the SNR are not included above since they are already in significant jeopardy due to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases at IWTU.