

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 13, 2021

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: B. Caleca, P. Fox, and P. Meyer, Hanford Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending August 13, 2021

DNFSB Staff Activity: Members of the technical staff held a virtual meeting with Hanford Site DOE personnel to discuss processes that are used to implement new or revised DOE directives in site contracts. Technical staff members D. Brown and B. Sharpless were onsite to for training and transition of staff assignments.

Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF): Tank Farm Operations Contract personnel completed the removal of the damaged cover and remaining sludge from LERF Basin 44 and have started installation of the new cover (see 5/21/2021 report).

Tank Farms: Contractor personnel successfully started retrieval of single-shell tank AX-103 (see 8/6/2021 report) and have retrieved approximately 15% of the saltcake and sludge initially contained in the tank. The retrieved waste has been sent to double-shell tank AZ-102.

Personnel responded to an injury in the A Tank Farm during excavation work. Response and transport of the patient from the farm were performed with no radiological issues. A resident inspector observed the contractor's performance of an event investigation meeting and noted it was thorough, with workers candidly detailing the event and response; contractor personnel are currently working to complete their investigation to develop appropriate corrective actions.

105-KW Basin: Contractor personnel are preparing to drain and grout the 105-KW basin to support its removal. A resident inspector observed ongoing work being performed by two contractor teams. The teams are size reducing, characterizing, and staging hoses, piping, and other waste material that is currently located on the basin floor. The size reduced material will eventually be placed either in the previously emptied sludge storage containers (see 9/16/2019 report) or in the recently installed vertical pipe casings, depending on the radiological characterization of the material. Work performance was safe, efficient, and well-coordinated. Performance of radiological control support functions during the work was also professional.

200 West Area: Two false chlorine alarms prompted take covers in the 200 West Area this week. The alarm system protects workers from potential chlorine releases at the area's water treatment plant and includes automated systems to notify the Patrol Operations Center as well as the facility itself to allow for workers to quickly take cover. However, these are the third and fourth false alarms of the system since 2019 (see 10/18/2019 and 1/8/2021 reports). Contractor personnel are currently investigating the cause of the spurious alarms.

West Area Remediation Project (WARP): With Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) demolition work winding down, the trained workforce for that project has been expanding their scope to other 200 West Area facilities slated for disposition under the WARP. As part of that effort, contractor personnel who are normally trained to respond to PFP events participated in a drill that responded to a breach of the 224T facility structure. The resident inspector noted that overall response was effective.