

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 13, 2021

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: Z. C. McCabe Resident Inspector
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Activity Report for Week Ending August 13, 2021

Area Radiation Monitors: SRNS personnel identified an issue with the commercial grade dedication for Area Radiation Monitors (ARMs) that serve a safety significant function in L-Area, Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE), and Tank Farms. After the site implemented NQA-1-2008/2009A in 2012, the site generated a waiver for the components already on site in storage. However, the site also continued to procure and store parts for the ARMs in the same way based on guidance in a whitepaper drafted in 2005. L-Area and SRTE entered their applicable limiting conditions for operation (LCO) and generated a non-conformance report (NCR). Shortly thereafter, they dispositioned the NCRs as use as is based on previously demonstrated reliability and the single manufacturer for all the equipment and then exited the LCOs. Tank Farms is in the process of determining if an NCR is warranted based on their past procurement practices. As of yet, Tank Farms has not drafted an NCR as they have determined that this does not have any near-term impacts on their units since they are only credited during specific transfers. The next planned transfer that would require these monitors (Tank 9 to Tank 10) is planned for approximately 60 days from now. As an additional measure Tank Farms personnel have put the necessary procedures for these transfers on administrative hold. This issue is still being investigated.

Savannah River Tritium Enterprise: Access issues delayed the completion of a fire patrol in a non-nuclear facility for two hours. Earlier that day, a recent fire impairment required a periodic fire patrol of the facility. The first two fire patrols were completed by Outside Facilities Operations and then turned over to H-Area New Manufacturing (HANM) Operations over night. The night shift Auxiliary Support Operator (ASO) began performing the fire patrol in the building but was restricted from certain areas because they were not on the access list. The ASO discussed the need for the fire patrol with the protective force personnel restricting access. The protective force personnel are not trained or qualified to do fire patrol, but the ASO briefed them on what to look for and had them patrol the rooms. The access issue was reported to the shift manager by the protective force lieutenant concurrently. Afterwards, the ASO returned to the control room and reported to the shift manager that the fire patrol was completed. The shift manager explained that having the unqualified person do the fire patrol was not acceptable and began investigating how to get a qualified person on the access list for the rooms. Eventually, the Shift Technical Engineer (STE) identified two individuals that had access and were qualified who then completed the patrol two hours past due. This is the second recent issue SRTE has had with night shift fire patrols in non-nuclear facilities.

Oral Examinations: The resident inspector observed an oral examination for a candidate for the control room manager position at the Defense Waste Processing Facility and a STE at Saltstone. The topics covered were appropriate and the board was well conducted. After the grading was complete, the resident inspector provided minor observations regarding the order board committee members discuss their grades for the candidate.