

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 25, 2022

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: A. Z. Kline, L. Lin, Z. C. McCabe, and E. P. Richardson, Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Activity Report for Week Ending November 25, 2022

Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE): While transiting inside of a contaminated air hood in Building 234-7H for a work planning walkdown, the left glove on an engineer's hand was torn due to friction on a piece of structural steel. They notified radiological protection personnel who conducted surveys and verified that the engineer was not contaminated during this event. Contrary to the job specific radiological work permit, which required two pairs of nitrile gloves and cotton liners (or one pair along with a pair of Hyflex® gloves) to be worn, the engineer only wore one pair of nitrile gloves. All other personnel inside the hood were wearing proper personnel protective equipment. At the issue investigation meeting, multiple other issues were identified including inadequate pre-job briefings and task previews and changing the work execution strategy without properly analyzing changes in hazards. Additionally, SRTE personnel identified that control room personnel, including the shift operations manager, were not aware that the work planning team was inside of the hood that morning. For the walkdown, the team determined that they would ascend to the top of the hood (approximately 11 feet from the floor) using installed structural steel crossmembers and plant components to perform their inspections rather than use a ladder as all previous entrants had done. SRTE personnel determined that no fall hazard existed due to the surrounding supports, walls, and equipment while standing on top of an oven which was six feet off the ground. The location was difficult to enter and required the engineers to lay on their backs and pull themselves through obstacles in the hood in some instances. Corrective action development for this event is in progress.