

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 3, 2023

TO: Timothy J. Dwyer, Acting Technical Director
FROM: L. Lin, Z.C. McCabe, and E.P. Richardson, Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Activity Report for Week Ending November 3, 2023

SRS Landlord Transition Summit: A resident inspector (RI) observed the NNSA and DOE led SRS Landlord Transition Summit that took place from 10/31/2023-11/1/2023. Senior leadership from DOE and SRS presented relevant transition related material and fielded questions from NNSA as they enter the next phase of the transition process. The presenters discussed the progress of the 18 subgroups working together to ensure a seamless landlord transition to NNSA on October 1, 2024.

DOE-SR Facility Representatives: The RIs met with representatives from the DOE-SR Waste Disposition organization to discuss lines of inquiry regarding the planning, development, scope, review, and approval of facility representative assessments. This is the first of three meetings with the applicable organizations within DOE-SR.

Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE): During an annual hoist inspection in H-Area Old Manufacturing, the inspector noted two deficiencies, but the hoist was still considered satisfactory per the procedure. The inspector notified the shift operations manager (SOM) of the deficiencies with the motor power cable strain relief device being broken and a hoist cable contacting a piece of conduit. The SOM issued a caution tag and generated a work request to address the deficiencies. However, since the hoist passed inspection, the lockout on the hoist was removed and power was restored. A little later, an operator in the area noticed the power cable on the hoist was extended. They lifted it to try and allow the auto-retracting system to take up slack, and at that point they saw a spark at the hoist motor. The operator notified their management, and facility personnel placed a danger tag on the hoist, placed the breaker in the off position, and barricaded the area. No one was injured from the event. During the issue investigation, personnel discussed whether the inspection criteria was adequate, that the inspection procedure comments section was not updated with the deficiencies noted until later, and that the SOM did not recognize that there was potential for additional hazards after the hoist passed the inspection. Following this incident, as a compensatory measure, site rigging briefed the crane and hoist inspectors that equipment lockouts will remain in place until the facility SOM has been briefed on the findings, control methods determined, and the procedure is only completed after controls are in place. The facility and site rigging are in the process of developing longer-term corrective actions.

Environmental Management System Plans: The RIs met with program planners from SRNS and SRMC to discuss the overall approach to the Accelerated Basin De-inventory mission. Their intent is to maximize disposition of Environmental Management owned spent nuclear fuel by dissolution through H-Canyon and discards to the Liquid Waste facilities before the latter's closure. While aluminum spent nuclear fuel can currently be processed, many of the other materials will require additional demonstrations, changes to facilities to be able to repackage material, and some material will not be able to be processed unless significant technological capabilities are developed and demonstrated for alternate disposition paths.