

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 1, 2007

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: R. Quirk and W. Linzau, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for the Week Ending June 1, 2007

K Basins Closure (KBC): Fluor Hanford, Inc. notified the Richland Operations Office (RL) that it had transferred, to the extent practicable, the sludge in the K East Basin to containers in the K West Basin. The project removed approximately 200 tons of debris from the basin during the sludge removal effort and plans to remove another 30 tons before beginning demolition of the K East superstructure.

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP): The Office of River Protection (ORP) conducted an inspection of the actions that the project has taken to ensure adequate preservation and maintenance of installed or stored plant equipment. ORP concluded that deficient conditions observed during their assessment in late 2005 still remain and that the project has an institutionalized reduced sense of urgency for completing equipment preventative maintenance. ORP has drafted a letter expressing their concern on the systemic failure to minimize deterioration of government property.

Washington Closure Hanford (WCH): The site rep attended a causal analysis meeting to investigate the discovery of contamination outside a radiologically posted area at the 105-H Reactor. Earlier this month workers were doing routine checks of the radiological postings at 105-H, which was placed in interim safe storage (ISS) in the fall of 2005. The workers noted that a radiological rope boundary was down and, during surveys of the area to confirm the boundary, radiological control technicians found surface contamination outside of posted areas. The highest level found was 2.4 million dpm/100 cm² beta/gamma fixed contamination with no detectable alpha. The areas in question are inside the fence around the reactor and were used to decontaminate heavy demolition equipment as ISS work was being completed.

During the meeting, posted contaminated areas outside the fenced area were also discussed. These areas were contaminated during the remediation of the 105-H Fuel Storage Basin when contamination was spread by wasps building their nests using contaminated mud (see Hanford Activity Report 4/13/07). The site rep has asked to be briefed on the plans to resume clean-up efforts at 105-H.

Management Changes: Keith Klein, manager of RL, has retired and Mike Weis has been named acting manager.

John Fulton, currently the director of Deactivation, Decontamination, Decommissioning, and Demolition and ISS (D4/ISS) at WCH, will become the chief operating officer at CH2M Hill Hanford Group. Kurt Kehler has been named the acting director of D4/ISS at WCH to replace Fulton.