

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 8, 2005

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: D. Grover and M. Sautman, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending April 8, 2005

Mr. Grover was on annual leave this week. Mr. Linzau was at Hanford this week as part of his transition to becoming a Hanford Site Representative.

Waste Treatment Plant: In light of funding and technical issues, procurement and construction activities for the Pretreatment (PT) and High-Level Waste (HLW) facilities will be significantly reduced. With a few exceptions, all PT and HLW subcontracts and procurements will be terminated or placed on hold (if not awarded). Among the exceptions are all tanks and large equipment required to support the concrete and steel construction sequence “over the top” since concrete placements will be the main construction activity that will continue. Engineering work on the design of these two facilities will continue. There will be no changes to work occurring on the Low Activity Waste facility, Analytical Laboratory, or the balance of facilities.

The Office of River Protection concluded that Bechtel’s response to their Condition of Acceptance on waste particle size and hardness characterization was incomplete. ORP has requested a more comprehensive determination that large particles will not be formed in tank waste processing and will not accumulate in process vessels. In addition, Bechtel is to provide a determination and rationale for the need for additional testing to support erosion evaluations conducted for process vessels.

During a tower crane lift at the Pretreatment Facility, the crane alarm internals fell out of the alarm casing and fell 40 feet. No one was injured, but the alarm battery hit an air compressor.

cc: Board members