

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 14, 2006

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: R. Quirk and W. Linzau, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending April 14, 2006

K Basins Closure: Richland Field Office and Fluor Hanford, Inc. held meetings this week to discuss perceived excess conservatisms in the draft Sludge Treatment Project accident analysis. Although some conclusions were reached on the assumptions used for offsite dose calculations, no clear path forward has been reached for changes to the overall accident analysis approach.

The site rep observed the Joint Test Group (JTG) during their review of the Hose-in-Hose (HIH) integrated acceptance test procedure. The procedure was approved by JTG with comments. After the JTG gave approval, engineering and operations personnel conducted a detailed review of the procedure and identified additional problems. The integrated acceptance test of the HIH is scheduled to begin next week.

Tank Farms: The CH2M Hill senior management evaluated the response to the possible leak from the isolated tank ER-311 and personnel contamination (see Hanford Activity Report 3/10/06). Management believes the use of emergency work provisions of their work control procedure was appropriate, but the procedure needs to be revised to clearly define when it should be applied and the work force needs to be trained on its use, including an exercise drill.

Solid Waste Storage & Disposal: The project implemented a management directive (MD) as a compensatory action to a positive Unreviewed Safety Question (USQ) for the potential accumulation of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in retrieved waste containers. The MD implements sampling and additional evaluations of waste containers for VOCs. Sampling for VOCs has been initiated during the drum venting operation to collect objective evidence of their presence. The site reps conducted a walk-down of the Low-Level Burial Ground and the Mobile Drum Venting System to understand the changes to the venting process.

Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP): The site rep met with Bechtel National, Inc. (BNI) management and the interim welding manager to discuss implementation of corrective actions from the root cause analysis on welding deficiencies (see Hanford Activity Report 2/3/06). A number of actions have been put in place or are being developed. The project received four other outside assessments of the welding program that provided a number of additional corrective actions. The following three corrective actions appeared in multiple assessments: improve training, review and revise the weld control manual and simplify the process to change welding procedures. The project has created new training modules that include knowledge verification and a team is revising the weld control manual. In addition, the welding department has been consolidated to improve organization strength and the hiring of a permanent welding department manager is imminent.