

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 18, 2006

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: R. Quirk and W. Linzau, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for the Week Ending August 18, 2006

Board staff member D. Grover was at Hanford this week for site training and a review of activities related to the Hose-in-Hose Transfer System at K Basins Closure Project.

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): A management assessment (MA) started this week of vital safety systems (VSS) at PFP and the Low-Level Burial Ground (LLBG). The PFP assessment covers the fire protection, criticality alarm, and back-up power systems, and the control system for the back-up power and ventilation systems (the MICON system). The ventilation system will be evaluated in a future assessment in October 2006. In the LLBG the mobile drum venting system is being assessed. This MA is scheduled to continue into September.

Washington Closure Hanford (WCH): The site reps met with WCH managers to discuss the plans for remediation activities of the 618-10 and 618-11 burial grounds. These burial grounds are comprised of trenches, silos, and caissons containing various forms of radioactive and hazardous waste. Document reviews indicate that most of the waste was generated in Buildings 325 and 327 in the 300 Area. Field characterization and design work is scheduled to be initiated next year pending a decision by DOE expected by the end of this year. It is anticipated that an Operational Readiness Review would then be conducted in FY 2008.

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP): The site rep attended an exit briefing for a root cause analysis (RCA) and human performance improvement (HPI) investigation of an event in which a commodity support beam was inadvertently cut when mistaken for a temporary support beam. Both investigation processes, RCA and HPI, were compared and number of different causes were noted. From the RCA the major cause appeared to be a lack of a written process for performing the work. The HPI investigation concluded that the broader construction site work process did not ensure work was performed safely nor ensure supervisors could perform their roles effectively.

The Office of Environment, Safety and Health conducted a prototype inspection of the WTP compliance with elements of the Worker Safety and Health Program Final Rule 10 CFR 851. A written summary of deficiencies was presented to the Office of River Protection but no report or proposed penalties will be generated per the scope of this prototype investigation.

Hanford Fire Department (HFD): The site reps met with the HFD Chief this week to discuss wild fire management planning. It appears that positive steps have been taken to prevent large range fires. Plans for coordinating with Federal, State and County resources are in place and the HFD has six well equipped brush trucks that hold 2,500 gallons of water and have the ability to traverse all Hanford terrain.