

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 24, 2003

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: M. Sautman, Hanford Site Representative
SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending December 24, 2003

Mr. Grover was on annual leave.

Tank Farms: Saltcake dissolution in tank S-112 continues. Total waste retrieved to date is approaching 50%. CH2M Hill Hanford Group (CHG) has completed several cycles of sluicing the waste mounds in tank C-106, adding oxalic acid to dissolve solids on the tank bottom, and then transferring the pumpable waste to a double shell tank. CHG hopes to complete retrieval operations in tanks C-106 and S-112 in early January and early February, respectively. Vacuum retrieval of the C-200 series of tanks is scheduled to begin in early 2004. The Office of River Protection (ORP) expects to complete saltwell pumping in April 2004.

Last week, the Office of River Protection through CHG selected bulk vitrification as the primary supplemental technology for further testing for treatment of low-activity tank waste. ORP believes bulk vitrification is the safety technology for workers handling the waste and involves less technical risk than other alternatives (e.g., steam reforming). (II)

Cc: Board Members