

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 15, 2002

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: M. Sautman, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending November 15, 2002

Mr. Grover was on annual leave this week.

Waste Treatment Plant: The Office of River Protection (ORP) issued their Safety Evaluation Report and authorized Bechtel National Inc. to proceed with full construction of the Low Activity Waste and High-Level Waste Facilities; construction of Pretreatment Facility pits, tunnels, and basemat; and construction of selected portions of the Balance of Facilities structures and systems. This authorization included several dozen conditions of acceptance. (I-C, III-A)

Tank Farms: CH2M Hill Hanford Group (CHG) completed the first waste transfer into SY-101 since its flammable gas issues were resolved. CHG also completed flushing the primary and secondary hoses of the failed hose-in-hose transfer line, which is to be examined with radiography this weekend.

A water truck violated a Technical Safety Requirement administrative control when it entered the dome exclusion zone for a catch tank which had an allowable load margin of 0 lbs.

CHG has expanded their ongoing common cause analysis of electrical safety to include 27 events over 16 months. Based on issues identified so far, the Operations Senior Vice President's approval is now required for all energized electrical work permits and CHG is redefining what constitutes an energized system. One pattern that is emerging is not limited to electrical safety, but involves field work misjudgements where rules were ignored in an effort to complete the work. CHG management is treating this seriously and corrective actions are under development.

The Site Rep met with ORP nuclear safety personnel to resolve the staff's remaining comments on the Tank Farm Nuclear Safety Risk Classification and Control Selection Criteria. (I-C, III-A)

Unreviewed Safety Questions (USQ): Recent direction by the Department of Energy - Richland and Fluor Hanford appears to be having the desired effect for when Potential Inadequacies in the Safety Authorization are declared. (I-C)

Rec. 2000-2: In response to staff comments, Fluor Hanford has developed a new systems engineer qualification card; better defined roles and responsibilities; and required trending, documented system walkdowns, system notebooks, and periodic system assessments. (I-B)

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): PFP is close to finishing thermal stabilization of Pu alloys and repackaging of sand, slag, and crucible. The staff is still trying to resolve issues with representation of PFP's Pu inventory in the Materials Identification and Surveillance Program and formal approval of their use of thermogravimetric analysis-mass spectroscopy. (III-A)