

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 16, 2000

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director

FROM: M. Sautman and S. Stokes, Hanford Site Representatives

SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending June 16, 2000

DNFSB staff member Tim Hunt was onsite observing Fluor Hanford's Phase II Integrated Safety Management Verification Review.

A. Interaction with Unions. Mr. Stokes met with the Mr. Steve Maki, Building Trades Safety Representative from Fluor Federal Services. The purpose of this introductory meeting was to provide background information, discuss topics of interest to the Board, e.g., worker involvement in integrated safety management, and establish plans for future interactions. (1-C)

B. Meeting with Ms. Fran Delozier, President, CH2MHill Hanford Group (CHG). Mr. Stokes met with Ms. Delozier to discuss CHG's new role as operator of the planned vitrification facility and issues related to chemical safety in the tank farms. (1-C)

C. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP). The readiness assessment for the Integrated Water Treatment System Phase 3 and 4 testing has been delayed until 7/17/00. Additionally, Fluor Hanford is developing a proposal to change the current testing strategy to one focused on staging fuel for its eventual loading into multi-canister overpacks (MCO). Their plan involves the decapping, washing, sorting, and loading of intact fuel into baskets, then their placement into the MCO loading queue. The contractor plans to select intact fuel to minimize or eliminate the initial use of scrap baskets since intact fuel can be stored for an extended period before re-washing is required. However, this plan requires that a number of concurrent operations be conducted within the basin leading up to the project's overall declaration of readiness planned for August 7, 2000. For example, any equipment testing and operator training on equipment and processes for loading the MCOs and removing them from the basin would now be performed immediately adjacent to hot operations. Additionally, both the contractor's and the Department of Energy's (DOE) operational readiness reviews (ORR) would be conducted after the initiation of limited hot operations. Mr. Stokes discussed his concerns with Mr. Phil Loscoe, DOE-Richland's Assistant Manager for Spent Nuclear Fuel and emphasized the added planning needed to ensure that any hot operations go forward safely and adherence to DOE Orders related to ORR's. (1-C)

D. Meeting with Mr. Delmar Noyes. Mr. Stokes met with Mr. Noyes, DOE Team Lead for the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project's ORR to discuss this upcoming activity. (1-C)

cc: Board Members