

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 15, 2000

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: D. Grover and M. Sautman, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending December 15, 2000

Messrs. Von Holle and Duncan conducted a chemical safety review while Messrs. Stokes and Tontodonato reviewed tank farms and integrated safety management system issues.

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP): The Office of River Protection (ORP) awarded a 10-year contract to the Bechtel National Inc. and Washington Group team to design, construct, and commission the WTP. Ron Naventi from Bechtel National will be the project manager.

Spent Nuclear Fuel Project: The cold vacuum drying facility (CVDF) completed processing the first production multi-canister overpack (MCO) several days behind schedule due to several problems with inadequate procedures. The MCO has been prepared for shipment to the canister storage building (CSB), however, due to inclement weather the actual shipment will be delayed until 12/18/00.

Two major procedural problems stemmed from changes not being properly verified against the valve control logic of the master control system software. This is another example of poor engineering within this project. On a positive note these problems and others were identified and properly responded to by operators, signaling an improvement in conduct of operations.

The DOE operational readiness review team identified a pre-start finding regarding deficient control of nonconformance reporting (NCR) tags. The corrective actions for this pre-start included a surveillance to verify that NCR tags for the CVDF were properly controlled. During operations on the first production MCO, Mr. Grover discovered a NCR tag on a safety class helium system component. The NCR stated that the component was for training and testing use only. Discussion with facility personnel identified that this NCR was closed but not identified as closed in the log book, also that the tag had not been properly controlled. (III-A)

Tank Farms: Concrete was added to tank BY-105 in the 1960's and 1970's. Mr. Sautman observed attempts during graveyard shift to cut through this hard layer with a water lance. Unfortunately, the water lance was not able to be operated when the water froze before it could get to the lance. A second attempt using better freeze protection controls was partially successful in penetrating through the concrete. A saltwell screen was installed during the third evolution, but the screen had to be shortened by four feet in order to be inserted. (III-A)

Meetings: The Site Reps had meetings with the ORP Manager and the Richland Deputy Manager to discuss organizational issues and operations at the spent fuel project and tank farms. The Site Reps also met with the General Accounting Office to discuss how things were going at Hanford.

cc: Board Members