

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 9, 1999

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: R. Arcaro, & D. G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representatives

SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending July 9, 1999

Mr. Ogg was on leave Tuesday. Mr. Arcaro was on leave Tuesday through Friday.

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant: B&W Hanford Company (BWHC) continues to make preparations for the feed shift in stabilization furnace operations. The Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) approved the feed shift today and once BWHC completes the Restart Plan, Attachment C checklist, operations can commence. This is expected to happen July 12.

BWHC also continues to perform equipment check-outs on the prototype vertical calciner. DOE-RL still expects that the calciner will start up by the end of July. (III-A.1.a.)

B. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): On July 8, Mr. Ogg toured the KW Basin and walked down the Integrated Water Treatment System (IWTS) with the DOE-RL Facility Representative. Although the contractor and DOE-RL reported the IWTS installed (construction complete) on June 21, several construction activities continue as workers complete "punchlist" items:

- ! Additional work remains on equipment associated with the filter vessels, including electrical and mechanical components.
- ! The flex hoses that run the length of the basin from the Fuel Retrieval System to the settler tanks and back to the filter vessels are floating on the surface. These hoses must be anchored well below the surface for shielding purposes.

Although the current working schedule indicates that IWTS pre-operational testing will be complete by July 14, this is highly unlikely and a Deviation Notice is reportedly under development to extend the deadline.

In late June, the SNFP nuclear safety organization issued a revised schedule for completion of project final safety analysis reports (FSARs). Submission and/or approval of the 100-K FSAR, the Cold Vacuum Drying facility FSAR, the Canister Storage Building FSAR and the Multi-canister Overpack Topical Report will be delayed 4-7 months. However, project management continues to maintain that the project is still on schedule to begin fuel movement in November 2000. The site representatives believe this can only be accomplished with the acceptance of a much larger programmatic risk and by rescheduling several procedure development, training, and readiness activities in parallel. (I-A.3.a., III-A.3.)

cc: Board members