

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 3, 1999

**TO:** G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

**FROM:** R. Arcaro, Hanford Site Representative  
M. Sautman, Hanford Site Representative

**SUBJ:** Activity Report for the Week Ending December 3, 1999

A. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project: Mr. Arcaro toured the K West Basins to observe installation of a basin drain valve cover. Previously, plywood had been placed on the basin grating and exclusion areas were established to prevent drops of equipment from damaging the drain valves and creating an unisolable leak. The new covers are sloped four-legged tables about, 3 by 5 feet, that are placed in the basin. The covers straddle the drain valves and are designed to deflect any dropped equipment. The installation in K West, which was on critical path for early testing of the project equipment, was completed satisfactorily. (3-A)

B. Tank Farms: Lockheed Martin Hanford Corporation (LMHC) imposed a one-day safety stand down on December 3 because of 5 performance-related occurrences since November 23. The latest occurrence was a leak of high level waste in a valve pit because of a mis-positioned jumper. The mis-positioned jumper was not discovered by the operator, supervisor, nor the quality assurance inspector responsible for verifying the lineup. Another occurrence involved cross connected continuous air monitoring alarm systems. After maintenance, the system was left in a state where alarms would indicate high airborne radioactivity in the incorrect tank. During the stand down, senior management held safety meetings with all employees where the incidents were discussed and safety and formal conduct of operations were stressed. (1-C)

C. Contract Change: Lockheed Martin Corporation is selling LMHC to CH2M Hill. LMHC is currently responsible for operation of the tank farms. The turnover to CH2M Hill is expected to occur by January 1, 2000.

D. Management Change: DOE Richland announced that the new Deputy Site Manager for Site Transition will be Dr. Harry Boston. Dr. Boston was formerly a LMHC vice president responsible for tank waste retrieval and disposal. As the Deputy Manager for Site Transition, Dr. Boston will be responsible for the major programs at Hanford including Spent Nuclear Fuel, Facility Transition, and Plutonium Stabilization. (1-B)

E. Meeting with Sandra Johnson: The Site Reps met with Sandra Johnson, the DOE-RL Assistant Manager for Engineering and Standards to discuss her organization's functions, concerns, and initiatives. This group is responsible for establishing authorization bases, identifying requirements and standards, and providing technical support for Hanford. Ms. Johnson is trying to improve the consistency, rigor, and formality of nuclear safety, radiological protection, and other requirements across all the contractors. The Site Reps were impressed with

her willingness to be held accountable for these functions and the initiatives she is pursuing. (1-B)

cc: Board members