

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 6, 1998

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: P.F. Gubanc & D.G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representatives

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending March 6, 1998

Mr. Gubanc was on travel to Oak Ridge all week.

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): The DOE-RL Readiness Assessment (RA) Team expects to issue their report on PFP Phase I readiness by March 13. Last week, PFP had planned to issue a "Startup Plan" for Phase 1 operations, but after review by Fluor Daniel Hanford and DOE-RL, the plan has been delayed.

DOE-RL had also expected to prepare a change request for the 94-1 Implementation Plan to propose new dates for meeting Pu stabilization milestones. This change request has been delayed pending further clarification of work and funding priorities at Hanford. Due to budget shortfalls, some Pu stabilization work may have to be further delayed in order to fund the Spent Nuclear Fuel project.

B. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): Duke Engineering & Services Hanford (DESH) continues to experience delays (e.g., Cold Vacuum Drying facility design), disapproval of safety documentation (CVD systems SAR), late delivery from vendors (Fuel Retrieval System process table, Multi-canister overpack (MCO) Handling Machine), and cost overruns (Fluor Daniel Hanford (FDH) now estimates up to \$60M beyond current approved budget).

On January 30, FDH issued a corrective action plan to address issues raised by DNFSB/TECH-17, *Review of the Hanford Spent Nuclear Fuel Project*. We have reviewed the FDH response and find that it does not fully respond to all of the Board's concerns, particularly in the area of project management - systematic evaluation of problems, and appropriate corrective action. DOE-RL plans to issue its response to TECH-17 today and forward it to DOE-HQ so that HQ can respond to the Board by the end of March.

C. Facility Representative Program: On March 5, Mr. Ogg observed the final oral qualification board for the first of a new class of Facility Representatives (FRs). The prospective Facility Representative performed well and will be assigned as the second FR working on the SNF Project. There is still a need for additional FRs across the site, and DOE-RL has received more than 100 applications for 10 FR positions posted several months ago.

cc: Board members