

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 20, 1998

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

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

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending March 20, 1998

Mr. Gubanc was on travel to Oak Ridge National Laboratory March 16-20.

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): On March 18, Fluor Daniel Hanford (FDH) issued a letter to Babcock and Wilcox Hanford Co. (BWHC) directing them to plan for an Operational Readiness Review (ORR) for Phase II operations. BWHC had suggested that Phase II readiness would be confirmed with a Readiness Assessment (RA). Additionally, FDH plans to issue a Monitoring Plan today that describes audit and assessment activities at PFP.

DOE-RL will approve the restart of Phase I operations after closure of the pre-start findings from the DOE-RL RA, acceptance of the BWHC Restart Plan for Phase I, and acceptance of the FDH Monitoring Plan. However, some discussion continues as to the need for the Phase II restart plan prior to approval of Phase I restart - and timely direction from DOE-RL has not been forthcoming.

During the week of March 30, Dr. Jerry McKamy (EH-34) will return to Hanford with a team of 6 criticality safety specialists to perform a more broad-based review of the criticality safety program at PFP. The review is expected to last the week and delve into site-level policies and site- and facility-level procedures that dictate criticality safety requirements.

B. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): DOE-RL reports that, as a result of the corporate review of the SNF Project last week, Duke plans to send a senior manager to Hanford on special assignment to monitor and assist with the project. Concurrently, DOE-RL plans to issue, to DOE-HQ, its response to DNFSB/TECH-17 which, reportedly, will direct additional corrective action beyond that suggested by DESH and FDH. Meanwhile, the DESH "current" project schedule shows that the Cold Vacuum Drying sub-project is now 31 days behind the baseline schedule.

C. Operational Readiness Reviews: On March 17, Lockheed Martin Hanford Co. (LMHC) issued a revised corrective action plan for the ORR on the 702-AZ Tanks Farm Ventilation System. FDH forwarded the plan the same day, and on March 18 DOE-RL approved the plan and approved start-up of the ventilation system stating that all corrective action was complete. We are reviewing the corrective action for completeness and have forwarded a copy of the plan to Ralph Arcaro.

FDH reports that the ORR function for all contractor ORRs (within the PHMC) has now been assigned to the FDH Quality Assurance organization. This is the same group that runs the FDH Facility Evaluation Board, and we view this re-assignment as a very positive step in establishing an independent contractor ORR capability.

cc: Board members