

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 27, 1998

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

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

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending March 27, 1998

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): On March 26, DOE's Office of Enforcement formally issued to Fluor Daniel Hanford (FDH) a preliminary notice of violation and proposed civil penalty of \$140,625. This action is based on DOE's review of PFP criticality safety infractions and a radiological control violation between November 1996 and June 1997 and the May 1997 explosion. A copy of the letter has been forwarded to DNFSB-HQ.

Resumption of Phase 1 fissile material handling at PFP still awaits the following actions:

1. Closure of DOE-RL Readiness Assessment (RA) prestart actions. As of March 27, B&W Hanford (BWHC) has completed one of five prestarts (pending FDH & DOE-RL verification).
2. DOE-RL acceptance of the PFP Restart Plan. A DOE/FDH/BWHC meeting is scheduled for March 31 to resolve DOE-RL and FDH comments.
3. DOE-RL acceptance of the FDH Monitoring Plan for PFP. Comments to be resolved March 31. One month has passed since the DOE-RL RA was completed.

B. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): This week, a new manager for Duke Engineering & Services Hanford (DESH) reported for duty. Charles Aycock has over 35 years of experience with Duke, and is being assigned to ensure the success of the SNFP. His specific position and responsibilities have yet to be announced.

On March 22, the DOE-RL Assistant Manager for Waste Management issued a letter to Fluor Daniel Hanford expressing continued dissatisfaction with the progress of the project. He called for DESH and FDH to take eight specific actions to address project schedule, project cost, project management capabilities, root cause identification, corrective action tracking, and quality assurance. On March 23, John Wagoner signed a letter to EM-1 transmitting the DOE-RL response to DNFSB/TECH-17. The DOE-HQ response to the Board is expected by March 31.

C. Contractor Management Changes: These changes are due to occur within the next few weeks:

- RADM Arthur Clark (retired) will replace Bill Heer as BWHC President.
- Robert Shoup, PhD, will replace Larrie Trent as FDH VP for Environment, Safety & Health.

D. Passdown of Safety Requirements: Our February 27 report describes deficiencies with the FDH process for promulgating site-wide procedures. As a result of our interest, FDH has suspended the next round of site-wide procedure changes until their process can be improved. FDH expects to present a reworked procedure process to DOE-RL by mid-April.

cc: Board members