

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 10, 1998

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director
FROM: P.F. Gubanc & D.G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending April 10, 1998

Mr. Gubanc was on leave Friday.

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): On April 8, Fluor Daniel Hanford (FDH) submitted it's PFP Monitoring Plan to DOE-RL. The contractor expects to resolve final DOE-RL comments on the Monitoring Plan and the PFP Restart Plan, and receive re-start authorization by April 13.

On April 9, Messrs. Gubanc and Ogg met with Art Clark, the new President of Babcock and Wilcox Hanford Co. (BWHC). Despite his short tenure, Mr. Clark demonstrated a strong understanding of the problems afflicting PFP and BWHC.

B. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): The SNF Project continues in a day-for-day schedule slip, now in its eighth week, as the contractor attempts to resolve problems with design documentation for the Cold Vacuum Drying Facility. DOE-RL reported that the Integrated Water Treatment System (IWTS) failed its initial factory acceptance test in South Carolina, but that, by the end of the week, the testing problems had been resolved. The staff is attempting to learn more about the performance of the IWTS system.

FDH has a commitment to DOE-RL to provide a new, comprehensive schedule and budget to DOE-RL by April 15. This will be forwarded to DNFSB headquarters when available.

C. B-Plant Deactivation: On April 6, Messrs. Gubanc and Ogg toured B-Plant which is being deactivated and is scheduled to transition to the environmental restoration contractor in September 1998. The facility appeared well cleaned (few trash heaps) with systems methodically dispositioned. B-Plant's operating history (no Pu processing for two decades) and lessons-learned from PUREX are contributing to make the B-Plant deactivation the most comprehensive yet achieved at Hanford.

D. Tour of N-Basin: On April 7, Messrs. Gubanc and Ogg toured the N Basin. BHI workers continue to make progress in cleaning the basin and preparing for basin water drain-down. Although work has been accelerated, the project recently re-negotiated its Tri-Party Agreement milestones to extend the completion date from April 1998 to July 1998. This date had been previously extended from September 1997. We noted no serious safety hazards. However, very poor cleanliness conditions in the work areas and on the surface of the basin water raise concern for control of surface and airborne contamination, and are not indicative of good work practices.

cc: Board members