

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 24, 1997

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director
FROM: P.F. Gubanc & D.G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending December 26, 1997

Mr. Ogg was on leave this week.

A. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): On December 23, Duke Engineering & Services Hanford (DESH) orally presented its proposed corrective action plan in response to the Fluor Daniel Hanford (FDH) "cure notice". DESH changes are desired to be in place by January 2nd and are expected to include replacement of the DESH Project Manager. His identified replacement is currently assigned as the TWRS Chief Engineer. DESH's written response is due to FDH on December 30.

On December 24, DOE-RL expects to issue formal direction to FDH to proceed with implementing the new Multi-Canister Overpack (MCO) sealing strategy which will permit the elimination of inerting from Canister Storage Building systems.

B. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): Jerry McKamy, EH-34, issued his trip report on criticality safety at PFP on December 23 (a copy was sent to DNFSB-HQ). DOE-RL has requested a contractor response by January 9. In the interim, PFP has contracted for the full-time involvement of a criticality safety engineer from Fluor Daniel Northwest (FDNW). He arrived at PFP on December 22.

With DOE-RL's agreement, PFP has resumed the fissile material inventory which was suspended on November 20. All fissile material movements for this inventory are required to be observed by a contractor senior supervisory watch and a DOE-RL representative.

C. DOE-RL Staffing: On December 19, Mr. Wagoner informed us that DOE-RL expected in early January to request authority from DOE-HQ to hire up to 25 new staff (both GS and excepted service) to meet critical needs. Among these critical needs are new candidates for the Facility Representative pipeline, and additional expertise in the areas of safety analysis, configuration management and criticality safety.

cc: Board members