

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 5, 1997

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

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

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending December 5, 1997

David Moyle was on-site Monday through Wednesday to review PFP restart activities.

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): As of December 5:

1. The DOE-RL Readiness Assessment (RA) was started and suspended on December 1. DOE-RL is reviewing PFP's corrective actions from the November 20 event (see last week's report) and expects to resume the RA no sooner than the middle of next week.
2. DOE is still evaluating the Board's suggestions which were offered to Mr. Angell on November 26. DOE is not yet ready to commit to implement any of these actions.
3. Mr. Moyle found the PFP criticality specs (CPS) turgid, duplicative, and sometimes vague or conflicting. PFP efforts to improve CPSs have been underway since mid-1996.

B. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): Canister Storage Building construction continues on schedule and without incident and now includes installation of electrical and ventilation systems.

Uncertainties remain concerning the implementation of the new Multi-Canister Overpack (MCO) sealing strategy. Fluor Daniel (FDH) is concerned that the SNFP can't make the change within budget and schedule, and on November 26, issued a letter to Duke (DESH) halting work that could be affected by the sealing strategy decision. DOE-RL and FDH are engaged in ongoing discussions to resolve this issue. On December 8-10, the SNFP will hold meetings to discuss technical details of the new MCO sealing strategy. Staff members Ogg, Wille, Yeniscavich and Grover plan to attend.

C. Recom. 95-2 Implementation: On December 4, Ogg and Gubanc attended meetings between Dick Crowe and Hanford staff regarding implementation of Integrated Safety Management (ISM).

- 1) Mr. Crowe explained that the methods used at Savannah River for ISM implementation and Verification reviews are optional and that Hanford is free to choose its own methods.
- 2) Regarding Phase 1 Verification for priority facilities, DOE-RL expressed its intention to define its own scope and criteria for the reviews. The Phase 1 review team will be composed of DOE-RL personnel and led by the Assistant Manager for Waste Management. There was some discussion of including a representative from DOE-HQ, but no decision was made.
- 3) DOE-RL maintains that the site-wide ISMS plan is the Hanford "ISMS description." Priority facility ISMS Implementation Plans will serve as facility level "ISMS descriptions." PNNL submitted its draft ISMS description for DOE-RL review on November 25.
- 4) DOE-RL has contractually implemented the new DOE Acquisition Regulation (DEAR) with PNNL and plans to for FDH before the deadlines specified in DOE Acquisition Letter 97-07.

cc: Board members