

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 7, 1997

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

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

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending November 7, 1997

Staff member Dave Moyle was on-site Tuesday through Thursday receiving training and familiarization on the Hanford Site and Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP).

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant: As discussed last week, B&W Hanford (BWHC), Fluor Daniel Hanford (FDH) and DOE-RL plans for establishing and verifying PFP readiness were issued and approved this week. Copies have been transmitted to DNFSB-HQ. On November 3, FDH formally started their Readiness Assessment (RA) of PFP "Phase 1" fissile material handling although actual field work did not commence until November 5. The FDH RA team is expected to issue their final report by November 17. This week, Gubanc and Moyle observed the FDH RA team conduct facility walkthroughs, personnel interviews and a plant casualty drill. The FDH RA team appears technically competent and thorough in most areas. Although still early in the FDH RA, corrective action management is again being identified as a fundamental weakness.

B. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): DOE-RL passed an important milestone on November 5 when it approved fabrication of Integrated Water Treatment System (IWTS) components at Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc. However, the IWTS sub-project lost two days in its schedule, and the Cold Vacuum Drying facility sub-project continues with no contingency in its schedule.

On October 31, DOE-RL authorized Duke Engineering Services Hanford (DESH) to start systems installation (ventilation, electrical) at the Canister Storage Building (CSB). DESH recently erected the CSB receiving crane, and roofing and siding installation is over 75% complete.

Also on October 31, DESH released the Site Fabrication Shop (SFS) to begin procurement for the first 30 Multi-Canister Overpack (MCO) baskets. DESH and FDH still maintain that the SFS QA program will be upgraded and assessed to meet the requirements of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management prior to the start of basket fabrication in early December.

cc: Board Members