

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 21, 2013

TO: S. A. Stokes, Acting Technical Director
FROM: M. T. Sautman and D. L. Burnfield, Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Weekly Report for Week Ending June 21, 2013

Operations: Site rep oversight of SRS efforts to improve conduct of operations included:

- The site reps observed an SRR Corrective Action Review Board meeting to revise the existing tank farms conduct of operations improvement plan. A key element will be improving the training of first line managers
 - Observing H-Canyon workers repack drums of beryl saddles. These are silver nitrate-coated ceramic column packaging that was used to remove iodine from the offgas of dissolvers. Despite their high radiation rates, the use of shielding, a hopper, and remote handling resulted in minor worker doses.
 - Observing a 235-F pre-job briefing and management work release for replacing HEPA filters. The job was delayed to resolve questions about the equipment configuration and controls.
 - Observing management reviews of the procedures, hazards analysis, and radiation work permits for three higher risk jobs at H-Canyon and HB-Line.
 - Reviewing the feedback generated by senior supervisory watches and shift operations managers at H-Canyon. The site rep also observed how management is deciding how to address the above feedback.
- In general, the SRNS management reviews have been thorough and issues are being identified with procedure quality, personnel protective equipment use, and field conditions.

The site reps reviewed current operator logs from K and L-Areas, H-Canyon, HB-Line, and the Savannah River National Laboratory as well as those that were 1, 6, and 12 months old. The review did not identify a significant increase in equipment that was out-of-service, out-of-range, or consistently having problems.

K-Area: Reducing the number of radiological protection first line managers from 6 to 2 has resulted in fewer assessments. For example, formerly monthly inspections of the condition of plastic-wrapped contaminated equipment are now only conducted semi-annually. The reduction of inspectors from 25 to 13 means that only rounds and routines can be supported on nights and weekends. Furthermore, the field monitoring team vehicle staged in K-Area (one of three at SRS used in emergencies) has been out-of-service 46 times due to lack of staff to operate it.

Emergency Preparedness: In response to staff feedback, SRNS is developing a new scenario for the upcoming 235-F evaluated exercise rather than reusing the one from the May drill.

F&H Laboratory: The site rep attended an issue review concerning a worker whose anti-contamination clothing became slightly contaminated (8000 d/m α) on the arm. Unlike the rest of the site, the laboratory procedures require the individual to doff their anti-contamination clothing inside the posted contamination area in lieu of requesting assistance from radiological protection personnel. When dealing with alpha contamination on a person, the immediate concern is the potential to inhale airborne contamination. SRNS radiological protection personnel will brief the site rep on how the laboratory's procedure addresses this concern.

F-Tank Farm: Tank farm personnel removed most of the contaminated jumpers from pump pit 1. During the evolution, they noticed a small leak of hydraulic fluid from the crane. The job is on hold until crane maintenance takes care of the leak. SRR hopes to have construction personnel remove the highly contaminated sump pumps next week.