

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 1, 2014

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: D. Gutowski and R. Quirk, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending August 1, 2014

242-A Evaporator. ORP started their readiness assessment (RA) for the 242-A Evaporator. The equipment problems with the recirculation pump and condensate pump that occurred during the contractor RA (see Activity Report 7/11/2014) did not recur this week. However, the evaporator system is not consistently reaching the operational pressure level (60 torr absolute) in a smooth and timely manner. The contractor is investigating possible causes for this discrepancy.

Plutonium Finishing Plant. Workers noted fraying on the drive belt for the canyon crane trolley in the Plutonium Reclamation Facility (PRF). Although the damage did not appear to be a sign of imminent failure, the workers moved the crane to its maintenance area. The crane is critical for the size reduction of the PRF pencil tanks. The crane has been performing well this calendar year after troubled historical performance with many extended down periods for repairs followed by relatively brief periods of operation (see Activity Reports 11/8/2013, 8/9/2013, 3/15/2013, 12/14/2012, 11/23/2012).

Tank Farms. The external technical review team led by Savannah River National Laboratory conducted their first site visit to evaluate chemical vapors and odors at the tank farms. The site rep met with the team lead to discuss the review's scope, current activities, and future plans.

ORP communicated to the contractor that there have been noticeable improvements in work planning and control in the tank farms, attributed partly to the transition from out-of-date systems to new software tools.

Waste Treatment Plant. Last week, the contractor initiated the first phase of control testing for pulse-jet mixers at the Full-Scale Test Facility (see Activity Report 11/15/2013).

Site Dosimetry Program. The DOE Laboratory Accreditation Program (DOELAP) performed an audit of the site external dosimetry program. They found that the program is adequate but that one of the issues identified during their last audit of this program had still not been corrected. As such, the DOELAP team escalated it to a "deficiency", their highest category of issues.

Site Infrastructure. The contractor discovered another leak in the 24-inch water line feeding the 200 West Area. This failure was immediately downstream of the leak identified in early July which has been repaired (see Activity Report 7/11/2014).