

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 24, 2015

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: M. T. Sautman, D. L. Burnfield, and Z. C. McCabe Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Weekly Report for Week Ending December 24, 2015

HB Line: SRNS resumed column operations. The processing program was paused because the plutonium concentration in the eluate was still elevated when the maximum heart cut volume was reached during the elution cycle. The next day, operators resumed elution with a higher maximum heart cut volume specified. However, after transferring one liter to the specified concentrate tank, the program unexpectedly changed the flow path to the alternate concentrate tank. Operators paused the processing program before any solution was transferred to the alternate concentrate tank. A time out was called until a path forward can be determined.

Emergency Preparedness (EP): SRR continues to make good progress addressing their drill program corrective actions (see July 17, 2105 weekly report). To date, SRR has completed more than 40 corrective actions (greater than 50% of the total) and all on time. Completed actions include:

- A matrix keeping track of all conduct of operations (2S) and EP drills completed since 2013 by facility and shift and whether it was a tabletop, coached, or evaluated drill.
- A five-year plan of 2S and EP drills and exercises to be conducted by scenario type, facility, and shift.
- A matrix listing events in the Emergency Planning Hazards Assessment, emergency action levels, and required actions in the Documented Safety Analysis and showing how these are addressed by abnormal/emergency operating procedures, drill scenarios, and training. SRR used this matrix to identify where gaps existed and which new or revised drills and/or training were needed.
- A list of several dozen 2S and EP drill scenarios that need to be developed or revised next year to support the five-year plan and address identified gaps. This includes seismic, tank deflagration, vessel explosion, and fire scenarios.
- Developed a consistent, documented approach to review abnormal and emergency operating procedures during initial qualifications and continuing training of operations personnel.
- Approved a fiscal year 2016 staffing plan which includes four EP coordinators, two scenario writers, two leads focused on drill improvement and scenario writing, and managers responsible for program development and conducting drills.
- Increasing the number of drills involving facility management teams performing their roles in the Technical Support Room including the recovery phase.

These actions are addressing many concerns discussed in past weekly reports (see 10/10/14, 10/24/14, 11/14/14, 5/8/15, and 5/14/15 reports).