

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 31, 2004

**TO:** K. Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** D. Grover and M. Sautman, Hanford Site Representatives  
**SUBJ:** Activity Report for the Week Ending December 31, 2004

K Basin Closure Project (KBC): Shipment of the first Large Diameter Container (LDC) containing approximately 3/4 of a cubic meter of North-Load Out Pit (NLOP) sludge to T Plant has been delayed due to a malfunction with the truck scale used to get a weight of the container. This weight is used as an additional indication of sludge loading. The container will continue to be stored inside the K-East basin until repairs are completed.

The revised Implementation plan for sludge retrieval and disposition identified a commitment to consolidate all K-East Basin sludge, except the NLOP sludge, by December 31, 2004. Currently, the project is still retrieving sludge from the weasel pit where the final 2 sludge consolidation containers are planned to be installed. Retrieval of sludge was started late due to design problems with a flocculent system which was eventually removed from the design for the startup of the system. Actual retrieval has been delayed due to excessive debris in the sludge, water clarity problems, and what appears to be a large grout formation in the weasel pit.

Installation of water polishing filters in the basin, as well as reduced sludge disruption activity over the holidays has improved visibility to the point that the debris interfering with sludge retrieval in the weasel pit can now be better evaluated. The project is also evaluating the potential to relocate the sludge containers to an area in the main basin. The project has been removing the center grids from the fuel canister storage racks and is modifying additional portions of the sludge water system (currently aligned for the LDCs) to be able to consolidate sludge.

Cc: Board Members