

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 9, 2005

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: D. Grover, W. Linzau, and R. Quirk, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending September 9, 2005

K Basin Closure Project (KBC): The project convened a team to review sludge processing alternatives. The team will reevaluate two previous studies of alternative to see if new information or revised project parameters alter the conclusions of those studies. The team has also been asked to evaluate the potential to grout the K Basin sludge streams without pretreatment, consider potential safety basis impacts, and identify key risks and mitigation strategies, including identifying technical and regulatory uncertainties.

T Plant: The Department of Energy (DOE) Operational Readiness Review (ORR) for the treatment of K-East Basin North Load Out Pit sludge was initiated on September 6, 2005. All the pre-start items previously identified were resolved with exception of for two items: issuance of the final operating procedure and enhancements to the programmable logic controller program. DOE expects to complete their review early next week.

Plutonium Finishing Plant: The site reps met with DOE and contractor personnel involved with the project to design and construct a new storage building. DOE has stated that the project was authorized via direction to plan to implement enduring onsite storage of plutonium by September 2008. The building will use expense funds rather than capital project funding. The project is currently working to develop the mission justification documentation to meet the requirements of DOE Order 413.3. DOE personnel are also working to develop a plan for interaction with the DOE Office of Engineering and Construction Management. The project expects to have the conceptual design and preliminary hazards analysis complete to support a control decision to allow preliminary design by the end of the calendar year. The project schedule will require an aggressive design and construction schedule. The project is expecting to have the design finalized prior to construction, but given past experience at Hanford, there is the potential for concurrent engineering and construction activities to meet their implementation deadline.

Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP): The Office of River Protection (ORP) has issued a letter to Bechtel National, Inc. that expresses their concern with the performance during design and construction efforts on the Analytical Laboratory. The letter gives examples of the decline in performance that have occurred during the last six months. The examples include welding problems, material control problems, and the errors in the design of structural steel discussed in last week's site rep weekly. ORP has requested the planned corrective actions to address the negative trend and impacts to cost and schedule associated with issues noted in the letter.

cc: Board Members