

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 13, 2025

TO: Technical Director
FROM: Hanford Site Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending June 13, 2025

Low-Activity Waste (LAW) Facility: An independent DOE team completed an Operational Readiness Review (ORR) of the LAW Facility. Per DOE's plan of action and the implementation plan for the review, they limited the scope of their review to those aspects of operation that were not reviewed during the Cold Commissioning Management Assessment (CCMA), or required follow-up based on CCMA results (see 11/1/2024 and 11/8/2024 reports). The team determined that LAW Facility equipment, procedures, and personnel are ready to safely start hot commissioning using direct feed from the tank farms, in a manner that is protective of the workers, the public, and the environment. The team also determined that HFO has adequate management systems and personnel in place to perform oversight of LAW Facility hot commissioning. They recommended that the DOE startup approval authority authorize the start of direct feed LAW hot commissioning after the closure of pre-start findings from the contractor ORR and six additional pre-start findings that the DOE team identified, along with the closure of the manageable list of pre-start open items. During his out-brief, the DOE team lead stated that the DOE team had also identified weaknesses in operational radiological work practices that did not rise to the level of a finding. He also noted that the LAW Facility is a complex, first-of-a-kind facility and there are many aspects of operation that can't be known until the plant is in a condition to reveal the information. Consequently, he advised that both DOE and contractor management need to exercise patience to accomplish a safe start of the facility. A staff team that monitored the performance of the ORR noted that the DOE team was prepared and conducted a thorough review. Although not mentioned during the team out-briefing, the contractor is managing a significant number of equipment modifications and repairs as prerequisites in the hot commissioning startup plan. Factoring that condition into the findings, the staff team agrees that, at the high level presented during the out brief, the DOE team's findings accurately reflect the readiness of the contractor and HFO to support hot commissioning. The staff team will review the ORR team's final report when it is available.

Emergency Preparedness: A resident inspector observed a CPCCo drill simulating a seismic event that both damaged a nuclear facility and rendered the relevant shift office and incident command post (ICP) unsafe to occupy. Overall, performance by the facility emergency response organization was strong once they relocated the ICP. This scenario reflected many of the potential challenges and key differences between response to other design basis events and a seismic event. The resident inspector notes that these differences exposed areas for improvement, which were discussed in the post-drill hot wash by contractor personnel.

Central Waste Complex (CWC): CWC personnel identified loose radiological contamination on the outside of two Standard Waste Boxes (SWBs) containing mixed-transuranic waste. The SWBs had been returned to CWC after an offsite vendor completed repackaging the waste to support future shipment to an offsite disposal facility. CPCCo management is working with the vendor to identify the cause and prevent future occurrences.