

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 28, 2000

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director

FROM: M. Sautman, Hanford Site Representative

SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending July 28, 2000

Steve Stokes was on annual leave this week. Dan Ogg, Tom Burns, and Dr. Kouts (outside expert) reviewed the Hanford criticality safety program and use of controls.

A. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP). The Site Rep met with Ron Hanson and Dave Van Leuven to discuss recent Fluor Hanford SNFP initiatives. Mr. Van Leuven is now working full-time as the project lead in the field to focus the SNFP on successfully completing the readiness reviews. Jim Wicks is now the Project Director. Bob Wilkinson is now responsible for ensuring that the K-West lessons learned are addressed in the K-East designs and planning. Tony Buhl will chair a Fuel Removal Action Center responsible for collecting, identifying, and making recommendations for all project issues and concerns. A Joint Startup Approval Team consisting of Van Leuven, Jim Klos, Phil Loscoe, and other Department of Energy (DOE) personnel will evaluate open issues and approve their closure. Fluor Hanford expects to start the Readiness Assessment for hot testing on August 14 and the contractor Operational Readiness Review on August 28. Repairs of the Integrated Water Treatment System are complete and an inspection of the 17 other sand filter hand-hold covers did not identify any other problems. (1-C)

B. Meetings with Senior Managers: The Site Rep met with the DOE-Richland Deputy Manager to discuss what corrective actions will be taken to fix problems with the DOE-RL Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS), how the effectiveness of these actions will be validated, and who will be responsible for managing this project. (On Friday, Klein announced that Harry Boston would be the RL ISMS management lead). The Site Rep also discussed concerns with the field presence by DOE senior managers and Engineering staff.

In response to recent events, Pete Knollmeyer sent the Bechtel Hanford Inc. (BHI) President a memo this week that, among other things, reminded BHI of their obligation to provide unfettered access by DOE Facility Representatives (FR) to BHI managed facilities. The Site Rep discussed this and other problems that FR's encounter with BHI managers with Harry Boston. BHI management's resistance to FR safety issues stands in stark contrast to their stated commitment to continuing improvement and implementing lessons learned. The Site Rep had a follow-on meeting with Keith Klein to discuss various issues with the FR program.

The Site Rep met with BHI's Executive Vice President to discuss recent events at 233-S. (1-C)

C. 233-S: In April, the Project Manager issued guidance regarding his expectations for supervisory presence in work areas after the Site Rep raised concerns about the level of contractor oversight. A review of radiological records for the 12 weeks since the guidance was issued showed that there has been improvement, but that the expectations are far from being met. The Field Superintendent and Radiological Control Supervisor, expected to have weekly entries, only had 6 and 4 entries. The Safety Representative, Radiological Control Engineer, and Area Field Engineer, expected to enter every 2 weeks, had 1, 3, and 1 entries, respectively. The data also call into question the thoroughness of the monthly fire inspections that are performed since

the fire protection engineer had only one entry this year. On the positive side, the field presence by DOE facility representatives and program managers has increased significantly.(3-B)

cc: Board Members