

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 17, 2000

**TO:** K. Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** D. Grover and M. Sautman, Hanford Site Representatives  
**SUBJ:** Activity Report for the Week Ending November 17, 2000

Messrs. Troan and Hunt reviewed facility deactivation and decommissioning issues.

Spent Nuclear Fuel Project: The DOE operational readiness review (ORR) of the K-West Basin, Canister Storage Building (CSB), and Cask Transportation System concluded on 11/13/00. The DOE ORR team identified 13 pre-start findings and 11 post-start findings. The pre-start findings include most of those identified in the last two site rep reports as well as findings with the contractor ORR, problems with assuring that acceptance test criteria were met, essential drawings for the CSB are not adequate for operations, and the CSB does not have redundant sources of firewater as required.

The contractor ORR for the cold vacuum drying facility resumed on 11/17/00. Demonstrations were conducted for moving the cask trailer into the facility and establishing the contamination control area around the cask lid. The demonstrations will continue overnight and through the weekend until the multi-canister overpack (MCO) processing procedure has been completed. The contractor ORR is anticipated to conclude early next week. (3-A)

Performance Incentives (PI): The Site Rep reviewed fiscal year (FY) 2001 PI's for consistency with the Recommendation 94-1 Implementation Plan. The regular milestone for solutions processing is 2190 liters with a superstretch of up to 2870 liters. Assuming that only the FY01 regular milestone was met, this would require that 90% of the total solution volume processed in FY01 to be processed in just the first quarter of FY02 in order to meet the December 2001 solutions stabilization milestone. This is a very optimistic assumption since this would likely include the organic, chloride, and caustic solutions that may not be compatible with magnesium hydroxide precipitation. However, based on the results to date (i.e., boats generated per batch, multiple precipitations), even 2190 liters might be optimistic for FY01. Slower than expected processing rates are driving the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) to examine alternative means for dispositioning plutonium solutions. The PI expectation states that solutions removed from PFP through other means (e.g., sending unprocessed solutions to tank farms) would be considered stabilized, even if these solutions might sit in the tanks for decades awaiting vitrification. The Site Rep reminded DOE and PFP personnel that the intent of Recommendation 94-1 was to expedite the conversion of the solutions' "plutonium to a form suitable for safe interim storage," not just to deinventory PFP. (3-A)

cc: Board Members