

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 4, 2002

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: D. Grover and M. Sautman, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending January 4, 2002

Mr. Sautman was out of the office this week.

Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): The project shipped 38 Multi-Canister Overpacks (MCOs) from the K-West Basin to the Cold Vacuum Drying Facility during 2001, for a total of 39 MCOs. This represents approximately 20 percent of the total inventory of fuel in the K-West basin. This has left 151 MCOs to be processed in 2002 to meet the Recommendation 94-1 Implementation plan milestone to remove a quantity of fuel equivalent to that contained in the K-West basin by December 31, 2002. This is an increase of 7 MCOs from the maximum production rate of 144 MCOs per year forecast by the comprehensive baseline change request approved by DOE-Richland in early 2001. This week another MCO was processed for a total of 40 with another planned for next week prior to entering a scheduled maintenance outage. Upon completion of the maintenance outage the project will have implemented "around the clock operation" in the K-West basin. The project has demonstrated the ability to achieve the production rates required to meet this production goal over short periods of time. The increased hours of processing combined with increased efficiency expected by avoiding daily startup and shutdown of equipment should be sufficient to meet the milestone if no problems arise. However, equipment problems experienced over the past year and the performance of the SNFP maintenance and engineering staff in dealing with these problems will likely result in late completion of the milestone unless they are aggressively managed.

The Fuel Transfer System Annex construction is proceeding after delays while resolving interferences with an underground piping run discovered during excavation. The project is installing forms and rebar and has initiated concrete pours for the foundation. (III-A)

cc: Board Members