

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 8, 2003

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: M. Sautman, Hanford Site Representative
SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending August 8, 2003

Mr. Grover was on leave this week.

Tank Farms: CH2M Hill Hanford Group (CHG) completed their Readiness Assessment for Tank C-106 Acid Dissolution with three pre-start findings. Unfortunately, oxalic acid addition was repeatedly delayed due to weather-induced operating restrictions and a series of equipment problems (ventilation shutdowns, no flow, loose fitting, leaks, instrumentation). (III-B)

The tank farms Documented Safety Analysis was approved by the Office of River Protection.

The CHG Deputy General Manager has been leading an effort to address the root causes from the June contamination event as well as incomplete implementation of corrective actions resulting from a previous incident in which high-level waste was spilled onto a worker. (I-C)

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP): After a number of 28-day concrete compressive strength tests for placements made in June and July did not meet minimum strength requirements (4000/5000 psi), Bechtel National Inc. (BNI) initiated a root cause analysis and suspended future placements. To date, approximately 2500 cubic yards of concrete in the Pretreatment Facility are affected. BNI staff and their concrete consultants are currently investigating a number of potential causes. BNI's approach has been more proactive than it has been with similar issues in the past.

BNI and the Office of River Protection (ORP) have developed criteria for determining when an authorization basis change is required for updating the national and industry consensus codes and standards used as daughter standards of implementing codes and standards in the Safety Requirements Document. These criteria appear reasonable. (I-C)

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): Hanford has completed repackaging the original scope of residues into pipe overpack containers ahead of their April 2004 milestone. This includes all of the ash, SS&C, and miscellaneous residues as well as the lean mixed oxides and alloys. Repackaging of some of the richer mixed oxides continues. (III-A)

Conditional Payment of Fee (CPOF): Last month, the Department of Energy-Richland (DOE-RL) reduced Fluor Hanford's (FH) fee by \$550,000 due to crane and contamination events at T Plant. DOE-RL has also given FH notice that programmatic weaknesses in the FH lockout/tagout program has triggered CPOF. (I-C)

cc: Board Members