

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 15, 2006

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: R. Quirk and W. Linzau, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for the Week Ending December 15, 2006

Staff members W. Yeniscavich and L. Zull were on site this week reviewing decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) activities at the Plutonium Finishing Plant and K Basins Closure and River Corridor Closure Projects.

Washington Closure Hanford (WCH): A staff member noted a small flame and subsequent smoke inside a contaminated hot cell during a walkdown of the 324 building. Contractor personnel determined the cause was probably the burning of a filament for a temporary flood light with a broken bulb. The power cord for the light was promptly unplugged upon report of the flame. The light had just been energized to improve visibility in the hot cell for the personnel on the walkdown. It was not until being prompted by the site rep that appropriate followup actions were taken by contractor personnel, including the stationing of a fire watch and notification of the Hanford Fire Department. It was determined that the bulb was broken the previous day but was not reported to management nor was the power cord for the light tagged or cut to prevent it from being re-used. The site rep will meet with contractor management and RL personnel next week to discuss: the actions that should have been followed by the personnel who knew that the light was faulty; the actions that should have been followed by the personnel who were present when the flame was first reported; and the pre-planned actions for fires in hot cells and glove bags during D&D activities.

The site rep met with RL management and discussed the upcoming work at 618-7 burial ground (see Hanford Activity Report 12/8/06). They said they will evaluate the appropriate level of oversight for the readiness activities.

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP): The site rep met with K. Stokoe and B. Redpath to discuss the data collection from downhole seismic logging at the WTP construction site. Progress has been made in the collection of data but was delayed the first few days this week because of problems encountered while calibrating the equipment. The team is using a new geophone and wireline truck that were borrowed from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The new geophone is heavier than the one used previously and has not experienced problems reaching the desired depth. In addition, the wireline rig is a more robust design typically used in the oil drilling industry. The initial data is being analyzed on-site to ensure it is acceptable; the analysis will allow for quick changes to the process if necessary. The team is scheduled to complete data collection on the first deep borehole this week and will continue next week logging the other two deep boreholes. The goal is to complete data collection of the deep boreholes by December 22 at which time the WTP construction site will shut down for the holidays. A draft report from the previously completed suspension logging should be completed shortly and the report from the current data is scheduled for completion in April 2007. The project is planning to insert a stainless steel pipe in one of the deep boreholes after data collection is complete. This will allow the hole to be permanently available for future use.