

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 28, 2007

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: R. Quirk and W. Linzau, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for the Week Ending December 28, 2007

W. Linzau was out of the office this week.

Tank Farms: The contractor declared a potential inadequacy in the safety analysis for failing to analyze using pressurized air to empty the waste transfer lines used for single-shell tank waste retrieval. This is the only significant nuclear safety-related issue that has resulted from the ongoing process hazard analysis (PHA) for the various waste retrieval systems. A number of low-consequence but high-frequency system challenges have also been identified. The PHAs are a corrective action for the S-102 waste spill.

The site rep observed the contractor's weekly Executive Safety Review Board (ESRB) meeting for closing corrective actions for the S-102 waste spill. The site rep noted that the ESRB continues to exhibit a questioning attitude during the review process, and sends a number of the closure packages back for rework. Half of the almost 200 corrective actions assigned to the tank farm contractor have already been approved for closure.

K Basins Closure: Contractor management briefed the site rep on the final pass vacuuming of sludge in the K West Basin. The contractor expects to complete the vacuuming effort within the next few days. The briefing included videos from various regions of the basin and pits, and it was apparent that with the exception of a thin layer of sludge that has resettled on the floor, most of the floor and pit sludge had been vacuumed into the sludge containers. Some floor sections still had significant amounts of small debris, but it was clear that there was minimal sludge remaining in the area. Some installed equipment, such as the primary clean machine, still precludes access to the floor and these areas will have to be inspected at a later time. After completing the final pass vacuuming, the contractor plans an extensive re-examination of the floor to identify any remaining fuel so that they can be treated in the upcoming fuel transfer and drying operations.