

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 26, 2009

TO: T. J. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: W. Linzau and R. Quirk, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending June 26, 2009

R. Quirk was off-site this week.

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP): The contractor completed addressing comments provided by the Office of River Protection (ORP) on the authorization basis change package associated with reduced material at risk (MAR). The change package consists of an addendum to the Preliminary Documented Safety Analysis (PDSA) for the Pretreatment Facility (PTF) and the supporting calculations. The package will remove the need for safety-class (SC) components in PTF due to reduced consequences off-site. ORP's comments were resolved, but some of the resolutions will require future revisions to the supporting documents. ORP evaluated the potential effect of these revisions and determined that none would cause any of the safety-significant (SS) components to be reclassified back to SC. The revisions will be entered into the contractor's action tracking system to ensure completion. ORP anticipates approving the change package by the end of next week.

The contractor still believes that some PTF components classified as SS can be downgraded to less than SS but will evaluate each system on a case-by-case basis (see Activity Report 6/19/09). The project wants to submit these changes to downgrade components to ORP in the form of a change to the addendum and only update the chapters of the PTF PDSA after all the system reviews are completed. The project estimates that it may take to the end of this year to complete all the revisions to the entire PDSA.

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): The site rep accompanied a representative of the Hanford Fire Department (HFD) and a DOE facility representative on a walkdown of the work area being prepared for repairing the crane in the Plutonium Reclamation Facility canyon (see Activity Report 6/19/09). The contractor presented their plans for emergency egress, heat stress prevention, fall protection, control of breathing air lines, and contamination control. The HFD representative committed to developing a plan for responding to emergencies that could occur during this activity. The project estimates the work may start as soon as next week.

Tank Farms: The contractor has reported an increase in radioactivity in a drywell in T Tank Farms. The levels increased from 2,000 pCi/g to 49,650 pCi/g in a well equidistant between single-shelled tanks T-102 and T-105. The contractor has started their leak assessment process and will be collecting and analyzing data to evaluate the potential sources of the elevated levels.

ORP completed a surveillance of electrical practices in Tank Farms. Three preliminary findings were presented at the exit briefing, including that electrical voltage checks were conducted during a work activity but were not specified in the work procedure.