

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 29, 2014

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: D. Gutowski and R. Quirk, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending August 29, 2014

Board staff member R. Rosen was onsite to observe meetings of the High Level Waste Tank Integrity Assessment Panel and Single-Shell Tank Integrity Project Expert Panel.

Tank Farms. The contractor sent a letter to ORP noting that they had completed the corrective actions for the four pre-start and four post-start findings from the 242-A Evaporator DOE Readiness Assessment (RA) (see Activity Report 8/15/2014). One of their corrective actions for the finding on procedure non-compliances will be an around-the-clock senior supervisory watch. These personnel will emphasize procedure compliance. ORP concurred that the findings were closed and authorized the restart of waste volume reduction activities in the facility.

The contractor issued their report for the RA of the Core Sampling System (see Activity Report 8/15/2014). They identified six pre-start findings, one post-start finding, and seven observations. Several of these related to completeness and accuracy of procedures.

ORP completed an audit of selected elements of the contractor's quality assurance program. At the outbrief, they concluded that these program elements were adequately implemented but had three preliminary findings related to material control and four opportunities for improvement.

Plutonium Finishing Plant. Workers entered the canyon of the Plutonium Reclamation Facility to repair the failed bridge crane (see Activity Report 8/22/2014) and completed most of the planned repairs. However, results from the lapel sampler worn by the primary maintenance workers on two separate days were several times higher than anticipated. The workers were both tentatively assigned approximately 2.5 DAC-Hours and will have bioassays performed before they can go back in to the canyon.

PUREX Plant. The site rep accompanied contractor personnel on an entry into the Piping and Operating gallery of the PUREX plant as part of the annual surveillance. As expected, they noted continued facility degradation including additional locations where powders or dark liquids have leaked onto the floor. No major changes in radiological conditions were discovered during this entry.

Sludge Treatment Project. The contractor completed all field work for the Integrated Project Optimization Demonstration (IPOD). The process equipment used during the IPOD will be replaced with new equipment that will be used in the K West facilities, and the cold commissioning tests will be performed with this new equipment at MASF.

Site Infrastructure. There was another leak in a 24-inch water distribution header, this time on a pipe to the 200 East Area. (See Activity Reports 6/7 and 7/11/2014.)

Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility. The contractor began its review of the Conceptual Design Report for replacing the K3 ventilation system and grouting all but one of the hot cells.