

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 9, 2015

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: P. Fox, D. Gutowski and R. Quirk, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending January 9, 2015

P. Fox was offsite this week.

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP). The contractor started developing the Safety Design Strategy (SDS) for the Pretreatment Facility (see Activity Report 12/19/2014). The development team is currently focused on defining the material at risk (MAR) and other key input assumptions as well as selecting design basis accidents.

The contractor resumed control selection for the High Level Waste Facility (see Activity Report 12/12/2014). Nuclear safety management noted that, other than managers, they have a lack of personnel with experience leading control selection efforts. Therefore, as a corrective action for previous weaknesses in the control selection process, the meetings now require a senior co-lead to be present for mentoring and training.

Tank Farms. The contractor attempted to remove the plugged slurry distributor from double-shell tank AN-106. They were only able to raise the distributor a few inches before reaching the load limit for the lift. The contractor is performing visual examinations of the distributor to better understand why it is stuck and is developing alternatives to raise it.

Plutonium Finishing Plant. The contractor implemented the 2014 annual update to the safety basis (see Activity Report 10/24/2014). The revisions include updated descriptions of buildings and equipment removed during D&D but the MAR was not updated to reflect the reduced holdup in the facility. TSR specific administrative controls (SACs) were also updated to include confinement boundary controls for Building 242-Z.

Capsule Extended Storage Project. RL approved the SDS for long term dry storage of the cesium and strontium capsules stored underwater in the Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility. The project committed to use the latest versions of DOE O 420.1 and DOE STD-1189 but not the latest version of DOE STD-3009.

618-10. RL approved a revision to the DSA which allows the contractor to begin remediating the Vertical Pipe Units (VPUs), including installation of an overcasing around the VPU, subsequent size reduction of material in the VPU, and grouting of the waste. The revised safety basis includes a SAC which limits the number of exposed adjacent VPUs to two. Actual retrieval of the waste will be addressed in a future revision of the DSA.

618-11 Burial Ground. DOE directed the contractor to stop work on updates to the safety basis.

T-Plant. The contractor is now consistently classifying the T-Plant Use and Occupancy Classification per International Building Code as H-4 because it contains health hazards. In accordance with this classification, the contractor is evaluating the need for adding fire suppression for future processes, such as repackaging waste drums (see Activity Report 4/4/2014).