

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 27, 2015

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: P. Fox and D. Gutowski Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending February 27, 2015

Board staff members J. Abrefah, F. Bamdad, J. Meszaros, and P. Migliorini were on site to discuss the PDSA for the Sludge Treatment Project with RL and contractor personnel.

618-10 Burial Ground. The contractor conducted a checklist review of their readiness to start remediation of concrete drums containing low activity waste. Additional readiness activities will be performed before they start remediating similar high activity drums. Although this review is not required and the new processes and procedures for these drums are similar to existing methods used to support remediation of some drums in the burial ground, contractor management decided that there were enough differences to warrant a thorough look at their readiness before starting the activity. The checklist review included a mockup and demonstration of the activity which involves placing the drums in a container with grout, and then shearing the drums and mixing the waste with the grout. The site reps observed the mockup activity and the final checklist review. They noted that the level of review was appropriate considering the relatively low hazard of the activity. Although there were no significant deficiencies in the conduct of the mockup activity and the review, the Site Reps did provide suggestions for improving the conduct of this type of review to the contractor.

The site rep observed a demonstration of equipment that will be used to support Vertical Pipe Unit remediation. It consisted of an equipment skid that includes an active ventilation system and a washing system to clean the auger used in the remediation process.

Tank Farms. A site rep observed the contractor's quarterly system health presentations. The meeting is designed to provide a forum for discussion between operations and engineering managers regarding the performance of key infrastructure in the tank farms. Contractor management noted that the system metrics tracked in support of this effort do not adequately portray a realistic picture of problems experienced with overall system performance in support of ongoing retrieval efforts. An action was established for contractor engineering to review ways to improve the display of information to resolve this problem.

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). RL is in the process of reviewing the contractor's submittal of revision (Rev) 12 of the PFP DSA. Rev 12 is a substantial change to the DSA and will establish criteria that must be met before final demolition of the facility. RL intends to approve the revision in early April.

Building 324. The site reps walked down the facility with contractor personnel. They discussed the plans to remediate the contaminated soil beneath the building including proposed structural reinforcement, the condition of the ventilation system, and use of heavy equipment.

DOE Headquarters Oversight. Staff members of the Chief of Nuclear Safety met with ORP and contractor personnel to discuss ongoing nuclear safety and quality assurance activities for the Waste Treatment Plant and Tank Farms.