

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 4, 2015

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: P. Fox and D. Gutowski Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending December 4, 2015

Tank Farms. The contractor issued a standing order that establishes compensatory measures for high risk work packages based on lessons learned from the AP-102 pump pull (see Activity Report 11/13/2015). The order provides new expectations for Joint Review Group (JRG) review and approval of work packages including additional contingency planning, reinforcement of expectations from the JRG procedure, and a review of feedback from ORP. A JRG met following issuance of the order to review the work package for flushing the AW-106 pump. The package was approved. This pump plugged last year during a waste transfer to Tank AW-102 for evaporator feed. Attempts to backflush the pump were not successful, so the contractor is planning a high pressure water flush of the pump to dislodge the waste holdup prior to removal and replacement of the pump. The site rep noted that the JRG meeting was dynamic and followed the expectations of the new standing order.

Plutonium Finishing Plan. The contractor is removing Pan J waste from the Plutonium Reclamation Facility (PRF) canyon (see Activity Report 10/9/2015). The waste is being placed in unsealed drums per contractor approved packaging instructions. These were developed using process knowledge to establish the expected chemical composition of the waste and any potential reactions with the glycerin-based fogging agent to establish the expected hazards associated with the remaining reacted and unreacted waste. Based on that analysis, the contractor believes that any reactions that may occur will not be energetic. The drums will remain in the facility until the analysis of samples of Pan J material is complete, and treatment, transportation, and any interim storage requirements are defined. Once the material is removed from the canyon, and when all other requirements are met, the contractor will grout the PRF canyon floor in preparation for facility demolition.

RL and the contractor will hold a workshop in early February to discuss disposition of the Pan J waste, including actions taken to ensure that the treated and packaged waste complies with Waste Isolation Pilot Plant waste acceptance criteria. RL will solicit Carlsbad Field Office participation for the workshop.

Waste Encapsulation Storage Facility. The contractor has started site setup to support hot cell grouting and ventilation system modifications (see Activity Report 6/12/2015).

Waste Treatment Plant. ORP agreed to the contractor's request on addressing comments from ORP's Safety Basis Review Team (SBRT) on a Low Activity Waste (LAW) Hazards Analysis Report (HAR). The contractor plans to incorporate ORP SBRT comments into the LAW Process Hazard Analysis rather than revising individual HARs. This will then be the basis for an upcoming LAW PDSA change package.

Richland Operations Office. J. Frey is the new Assistant Manager for Safety and Environment. This position had been vacant and filled in an acting capacity by Mr. Frey for over a year.