

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 11, 2016

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: P. Fox and D. Gutowski Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending February 12, 2016

Tank Farms. The site rep observed control room operations for both the AP-102 to AZ-102 transfer and C-111 Retrieval. The first attempt to start the AP-102 transfer this week ended after about 30 minutes due to a pump shutdown. Contractor troubleshooting did not determine an obvious cause for the shutdown but engineering decided the most likely cause was signal noise from the uncalibrated flowmeter (see Activity Report 2/12/2016). Although the flowmeter had been reprogrammed to cut the signal to the pump interlock, the signal was not physically isolated from the system. After this most recent shutdown, they physically isolated the flowmeter signal and the transfer started successfully after this change. The flowmeter has been retuned to waste parameters using the transfer flow, but remains isolated. Recent C-111 retrieval operations included pumping down most of the caustic added a few weeks ago and the resumption of sluicing. The caustic soak appeared to be relatively successful at softening remaining waste.

The site reps discussed management of tank farm control room alarms with contractor personnel. They described historical efforts to reduce nuisance alarms including new internal standards for alarm management and their ongoing alarm rationalization pilot in AN Farm. The alarm rationalization effort will be expanded throughout the facility. The contractor also provided control system demonstrations regarding alarms at a simulator.

The site rep attended worker training for AY-102 retrieval. The training course was a classroom overview of radiological monitoring, industrial hygiene monitoring, and equipment configuration with an emphasis on changes from existing retrievals.

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). The contractor completed size reduction of glove box HA-9A (see Activity Report 10/16/2015). This represents a substantial hazard reduction at PFP.

The Vice President for the PFP closure project has transitioned to a new position within the company. The current Deputy Vice President has assumed responsibility for project.

100 K West Area. The contractor completed modification of the engineered sludge containers (see Activity Report 2/05/2015). The modifications support future sludge retrieval.

Radiochemical Processing Laboratory. During a routine inspection, a worker identified a small crack in a safety-significant glovebox window. This is a new glovebox that contains no radiological material yet. The contractor is evaluating repair versus replacement of the window and is evaluating possible causes for the crack.

Building 324. RL has provided funding and is transferring existing work scope related to Building 324 and remediation of the contamination under the building from the River Corridor contractor to the Plateau Remediation contractor because the River Corridor contract will close at the end of this fiscal year. The Plateau Remediation contractor has assigned a project team lead and has started the turnover process which is expected to be complete by the end of April.