

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 18, 2016

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: P. Fox and D. Gutowski Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending March 18, 2016

B. Boser and A. Miller observed the Low Activity Waste Pretreatment System Project Peer Review. R. Rosen attended the Tank Integrity Expert Panel Corrosion Subgroup Meeting.

Tank Farms. The contractor declared a PISA due to incorrect setpoints applied to pressure transmitters used for verifying TSR limits in AY and AZ farms. AY and AZ farm tank have two pressure transmitters monitoring tank pressure relative to atmospheric pressure to ensure the tanks remain less than atmospheric pressure. The instruments are calibrated to different spans and had the same setpoint. A review of the uncertainty calculation showed that the transmitter with the wider calibrated span should use a different setpoint. The contractor has restricted use of the wide range transmitter for TSR compliance but continues to use the narrow range transmitter.

The contractor attempted to start solids removal from AY-102 to AP-102 over the past weekend. A brief transfer of liquid material on Sunday was halted due to unusual flowmeter readings. The contractor believes the issues are resolved and intends to start solids retrieval this weekend.

222-S Laboratory. The site rep and a staff member observed an evaluated field drill at the 222-S Laboratory. The scenario was a seismic event causing damage to the lab and associated structures. An aftershock near the end of the scenario caused a partial collapse of the adjacent REDOX facility to demonstrate movement of staged personnel away from the new hazard. An accountability error led to a delay in the facility emergency response organization recognizing there was a missing injured and immobile individual. This slowed mobilization of the rapid evaluation assessment teams who eventually discovered this individual.

Waste Treatment Plant. The site rep met with the ORP Commissioning, Maintenance, and Operations Division Director and Lead Start-up Engineer to discuss Joint Test Group operations and performance, identification and tracking of test requirements, and testing of installed plant equipment that has been used to support construction operations. The division director outlined areas that were a focus for improvement and provided information related to ongoing actions to support successful implementation of the startup testing program.

Calibration Laboratory. The site reps observed calibration of a portable flammable gas meter used by the tank farms for TSR surveillances at the Mission Support Contractor's calibration laboratory. The site reps noted that, although some aspects of work performance were less formal than expected, the technician who performed the calibration was competent and the meter was successfully calibrated.

T-Plant. The contractor held a Hazard Review Board meeting to review preparations for removal of obsolete equipment from the T-Plant canyon. This work is necessary to allow access to the canyon cells for storage of sludge material that will be removed from K-Basin.