

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 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 November 18, 2016

D. Gutowski was offsite this week. D. Cleaves provided site rep support.

Tank Farms. The tank farm contractor is expected to resume retrieval activities after a federal judge denied a preliminary injunction requested by the State of Washington, a local union, and a local citizen group for increased protection of tank farm workers from tank vapors.

ORP completed an audit of the tank farm contractor quality assurance (QA) program. The audit team determined that the QA program elements reviewed were adequately flowed down to implementing procedures, procedures were adequately implemented, and the procedures were effective. The team also identified five findings and five opportunities for improvement.

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). The demolition team completed removal of the Plutonium Reclamation Facility penthouse (5th and 6th floors). This first phase of the demolition was completed without significant incident and the team has demonstrated a conservative and safe approach in completing their work. Additionally, the enhanced oversight provided by both DOE and contractor management has yielded solid observations that are being used to modify work practices to improve safety. Contractor management has paused work prior to entering the next and more hazardous phase to evaluate lessons learned from the initial phase of the demolition, and to allow time to conduct a mockup of techniques that will be used to package remaining TRU components that will be removed from the lower portions of the facility during demolition.

Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (WESF). The contractor completed actions necessary to lift the management stop work that was initiated when they discovered that a grout conveyance system was not installed per work package instructions (see Activity Report 11/10/16). Grouting activities are expected to resume after the system installation is corrected.

Emergency Planning. The site rep and a member of the staff observed and evaluated the quarterly limited emergency planning exercise. The scenario was challenging and involved an explosion within the WESF pool area which resulted in high radiation areas external to the facility and a spread of contamination.

Building 324. The plateau remediation contractor briefed members of the staff regarding ongoing activities to remediate the contaminated soil which is located below the building. They described their overall approach, ongoing activities, and changes they expect to make to the facility safety basis in support of their efforts.

Waste Treatment Plant. The contractor lifted the caustic scrubber into the Low Activity Waste Facility. This is the last major piece of equipment required to support completion of the facility.

Richland Operations Office. A new facility representative completed final qualifications and will be assigned to oversight of Solid Waste Operations Complex facilities.