

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 24, 2013

**TO:** S. A. Stokes, Acting Technical Director  
**FROM:** M. T. Sautman and D. L. Burnfield, Site Representatives  
**SUBJECT:** Savannah River Site Weekly Report for Week Ending May 24, 2013

**Budgets:** The Fiscal Year 2014 President's Budget Request (PBR) is expected to significantly impact waste processing and the corresponding rate that radioactive material is removed from the tanks. Compared to the latest system plan assumptions, these potential impacts include a 64% reduction in the canister production rate at the Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) and a 2/3 reduction in the volume of salt waste processed through the Actinide Removal Project/Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit. Bulk waste removal and the closure of old-style tanks would also be significantly slowed down.

The recently approved reprogramming request will allow SRNS employees to return to a normal 40-hour work week next week. In addition, these funds will allow the dissolution of Sodium Reactor Experiment fuel to resume at H-Canyon and the start of plutonium oxide production at HB-Line. However, preparations for additional spent fuel dissolution at H-Canyon are on hold pending the completion of an Office of Management and Budget-requested review of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) options. Furthermore, next year's PBR will allow tank farms to accept only half the volume of waste that the H-Canyon SNF and plutonium campaigns are expected to produce. Even with the reduced DWPF production and limited H-Canyon receipt rates, SRR believes they will need to reuse two old-style tanks to accommodate the storage of concentrated wastes.

**Conduct of Operations:** In response to a DOE letter concerning an adverse trend in performing disciplined operations, SRNS submitted a corrective action plan. The plan includes actions for setting senior leadership expectations and standards, increasing ownership of conduct of operations, and improving the effectiveness of self-assessment and management field observations. Meanwhile, SRNS continues to experience problems:

- During an electrical outage at H-Canyon, operations staff did not adequately remove from service a criticality safety-required temperature instrument. Although the operators performing rounds reported that the temperature reading was not illuminated, it took three shifts before management realized the significance of this.
- A worker identified that two fuel bundles had been used to store fuel in L-Basin although these particular bundles had not been officially turned over to operations.

**Conduct of Engineering:** A manlift was moved onto a section of floor in K-Area in accordance with a Documented Safety Analysis-prescribed floor load limit. However, engineers later realized there was no reference for this load limit. Without the correct citation, they have not yet been able to locate a supporting calculation. SRNS facility and engineering personnel are evaluating the options available to safely move the manlift from the assembly floor.

**Tank Integrity:** An external panel met to review the SRS waste tank integrity program. The panel consisted of Robert Sindelar, SRNL; Russ Jones, GT Engineering; George Antaki; and Ed Selden, SRR. The team focused on the inspection program, the failure analysis for the tanks and associated systems, and the tank chemistry and corrosion control programs. The team will provide a report to SRR for final review by June 17.