

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 25, 2015

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: M. T. Sautman and Z. C. McCabe, Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Weekly Report for Week Ending November 25, 2015

HB-Line: SRNS exited the operational pause and began deliberate operations (see 9/18/15 weekly report). This will allow fissile operations to resume.

H-Canyon: The air compressor that supports the Seismically Qualified Vessel Air Purge Equipment control failed a surveillance test when the compressor loaded to the required pressure, but was unable to supply air downstream when the outlet valve was opened. SRNS is troubleshooting the cause of the failure. The failure may be similar to one that happened in June 2013. After that event, engineering recommended that the minimum pressure valve be exercised during the weekly compressor run period, but this recommendation is still open.

Recent cold temperatures appear to have caused incorrect tank level indications for two outside facility tanks that store acid recovery unit overheads. These incorrect readings prompted the initiation of a solution transfer that was not actually required. This transfer resulted in some of the solution to overflow into a sump, which then overflowed onto the ground. While the operator confirmed that the transfer was occurring between the two correct tanks, the operator did not continuously monitor tank levels during the transfer. Due to incorrect readings, the tank level in the receiving tank was actually indicating that the tank level was decreasing during part of the transfer.

Defense Waste Processing Facility: SRR patched the leak in the formic acid line (see 11/13/15 weekly report).

Potential Inadequacies in the Safety Analysis (PISA): SRNS declared PISAs for both K-Area and HB-Line due to inconsistencies in the function of the hydrogen getter inside the 9975 Type B shipping package's primary containment vessel. SRNS later determined that the K-Area PISA was a positive Unreviewed Safety Question.