## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

| TO:      | Technical Director                                 |
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| FROM:    | Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Cognizant Engineer |
| SUBJECT: | INL Report for February 2025                       |

**DNFSB Staff Activity:** The DNFSB INL cognizant engineer held weekly meetings to maintain awareness of site activities, including attending event fact findings, management reviews, integrated project team reviews, and facility plan of the day meetings.

Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP) Drum Corrosion Issues Updates: DOE and Idaho Environmental Coalition (IEC) personnel continue to find additional drums with leaks and corrosion in storage at AMWTP (See November 2024 and January 2025 reports). To increase worker safety during drum movements, IEC instituted full-time coverage from an industrial hygienist to augment the radiological control technician that has already been supporting this work. The industrial hygienist is present to ensure workers are not exposed to harmful organic vapors from any drums with breaches. IEC personnel will use portable continuous air monitors in cases where airborne contamination could result from a corroded drum. IEC successfully overpacked the known, most problematic sludge repackaging project (SRP) drums. To allow for better inspection and retrieval, IEC is also planning to reconfigure the SRP drum storage arrays to be two drums wide, and two drums high. Currently, SRP drum arrays may be four drums wide and five drums high. For other difficult SRP drums, IEC plans to determine when they will be certified for shipment, and overpack the drums, in cases where the certification schedule is longer than about six months. For BN510 product drums, IEC is beginning a program to test drum wall thickness via ultrasound in March 2025, and is highlighting drum move sheets for heightened worker awareness of older BN510 drums.

**IEC Qualification Training Issues:** On February 13, 2025, IEC discovered that some inspectors' qualifications for Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) inspection had lapsed, as an annual refresher training had not been completed within the required timeframe. At least some of the affected 56 personnel had conducted RCRA inspections with lapsed qualifications. Upon further investigation, IEC found the current iteration of the RCRA qualification was loaded into the training system in May 2016. This was during a time when AMWTP had a separate contractor who was merging with Fluor Idaho (IEC's predecessor). No changes to the qualification were performed by any past Fluor Idaho or current IEC employee inputting this information into the training system. All this work was completed as part of the transition by Battelle Energy Alliance (contractor for NE-ID) since they own and maintain this system. IEC determined that the qualification of the pending lapse. IEC is conducting an extent of condition review and has found at least one other qualification with the same issue. On February 27, 2025, a similar but unrelated lapse occurred for 16 workers' qualification for radiological worker training.

**New Waste Calcining Facility (NWCF) Valve Cubicle Cleanout.** IEC personnel have been working to clean out legacy spent filters, debris, and other waste from the Valve Cubicle on the lower level of NWCF, using bridge cranes and waste boxes such as BR-90s and CO-225s. The valve cubicle is where important, high-maintenance items such as pumps and valves are located, including equipment for transfer of sodium bearing waste to the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit. IEC personnel have largely completed this long-term cleanup effort, including removal of items that had been inside the Valve Cubicle for about 25 years or more.