

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 5, 2025

**TO:** Technical Director  
**FROM:** Savannah River Site Resident Inspectors  
**SUBJECT:** Savannah River Site Activity Report for Week Ending September 5, 2025

**H-Tank Farm (HTF):** A team of construction employees was assigned to perform lawn maintenance tasks within the HTF facility. Prior to commencing work, the employees walked down the area, were briefed by their foreman, and reviewed the safety task analysis risk reduction talk (STARRT) card. After commencing work, a construction employee mowed over and damaged a live 480V power cable connected to a bangboard, which provided temporary power to nearby buildings. The employee shut the mower down and remained on the mower while a nearby co-worker secured the portable generator that was powering the bangboard. Safety engineering determined that the 480V cables were damaged to the extent that the wires were exposed during the incident. Facility management declared an Occurrence and Reporting Processing System 10(2), Management Concern, based on the seriousness of the event and the near miss for a reportable injury. Facility personnel conducted an issue investigation and determined that the construction employee should not have been mowing in the area and that string trimming was the appropriate method for cutting the grass around those cables. During the issue investigation, personnel discussed potential corrective actions, which include developing a lessons learned report based on this incident, instituting a requirement that all liquid waste facilities construction superintendents conduct walkdowns of all lawn maintenance areas prior to mowing, and developing a mowing-specific STARRT card. Additionally, construction personnel repaired and relocated the generator, bangboard, and cables to an asphalt area closer to the buildings for which they provide temporary power. The resident inspectors (RI) noted that although the electrical cables had been located in the grassy area for years, there were no signs or barriers warning personnel that a potential hazard existed that could have provided additional protections against inadvertent damage. The RIs also cautioned against encouraging untrained employees to take immediate actions to mitigate electrical hazards caused by accidents in that there are situations where additional unintended injuries could occur.

**K-Area Complex (KAC):** SRNS completed the implementation verification review (IVR) for changes associated with Documented Safety Analysis and Technical Safety Requirements. The changes include allowing repackaging operations in the Criticality Container Overpack (CCO) pad and the 910-A and 910-B vaults, as well as new or revised controls. The IVR team reviewed applicable documents and conducted formal and informal interviews. Additionally, the IVR team performed field observations and field walkdowns of operator rounds, and packaging/repackaging of CCOs in various plant locations. The IVR team identified 3 pre-implementation findings that were all corrected on the spot, and 5 opportunities for improvement. The RI observed several of the interviews and field demonstrations and did not note any additional concerns.