DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 7, 2025

TO: Technical Director
FROM: Hanford Site Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending November 7, 2025

Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (WESF): Last week, HFO determined that CPCCo had closed all three pre-start findings from DOE's recent readiness assessment (see 10/17/2025 report). Based on this determination, the DOE Startup Approval Authority authorized CPCCo to commence capsule transfer operations at WESF in accordance with the approved startup plan.

This week, while executing a procedure in support of the cask storage system and truck port preparations and lifting the inner lid of the transportable storage container (TSC), the lid did not separate from the TSC. Consequently, the TSC lifted along with the inner lid. During this evolution, the spotter/flagger and process crane operator recognized the lid had not separated, stopped the lift, and provided direction to lower the load back into a safe configuration. The work crew exited the canyon and held a post-job meeting and discussed potential causes and follow-up actions. They determined that a more precise alignment is required during lifting due to close tolerances. The lid was subsequently unbound from the TSC, and engineering evaluations were performed to ensure the TSC is properly centered and that the weld surfaces were not detrimentally impacted. CPCCo hopes to commence capsule retrieval from the pool cell and loading into a universal capsule sleeve by this weekend or early next week.

Tank Side Cesium Removal (TSCR) System: H2C idled the TSCR system after the successful completion of campaign 1A (see 12/4/2024 report). This week, they placed the system back into operation and initiated batch 1 of TSCR processing campaign 2. Double-shell tank (DST) AP-107 contains approximately 1,100,000 gallons of compliant feed to support the campaign. DST AP-106 will receive the TSCR product. It has approximately 300,000 gallons of space available after completing initial waste transfers to the Low-Activity Waste (LAW) Facility. H2C expects to complete this batch in approximately five weeks if the TSCR system operates continuously at capacity. H2C will also continue providing TSCR-treated waste from AP-106 to the LAW Facility throughout the campaign. The TSCR system cannot produce feed at the LAW Facility's expected process rate. Consequently, although H2C has an 800,000-gallon backlog of treated waste in AP-106 to support LAW Facility operation, the TSCR system must operate efficiently to sustain LAW Facility operations until the new Advanced Modular Pretreatment System can be brought online. DOE and H2C are exploring operational improvements that might increase TSCR system production rates. If feasible, these actions would help reduce the risk of interrupted LAW Facility operation caused by treated waste feed shortages.

Tank Farms: H2C resumed single-shell tank (SST) A-102 waste retrieval. H2C originally started A-102 retrieval in January but subsequently paused operations because of DST space shortages. SST A-102 currently contains approximately 38,000 gallons of unretrieved waste.

Hanford Site: Tim Walsh, DOE Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Management, visited the site.