DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 25, 2026

Hanford Site Resident Inspectors Activity Report for Week Ending September 25, 2026

Tank Farms: As part of the West Area Risk Mitigation project, H2C personnel have been working to remove and replace equipment and refurbish pits in SY Tank Farm, which will be used to stage tank waste for treatment. During refurbishment of pit SY-01A, workers filled a bucket with a three-part epoxy for recoating the pit. Workers expressed concerns about the rate of exothermic reaction of the epoxy, with visible vapor coming off the bucket and temperatures of 300 degrees Fahrenheit. Workers evacuated the area and H2C personnel entered the abnormal operating procedure for placing people and equipment in a safe and stable condition. Workers removed the bucket from the pit and placed it outside. No injuries or fires were reported, and workers were in respiratory protection during the event. The subsequent day, workers re-entered SY Tank Farm and used an infrared thermometer to verify that the reaction had ceased, after which the abnormal operating procedure was exited. H2C has scheduled an event investigation for next week.

A resident inspector (RI) observed an event learning meeting to discuss the discovery of a reversed check valve after workers installed a new caustic metering pump in the Tank Side Cesium Removal (TSCR) process. This was a follow-up to the operational issues encountered when restoring system function at TSCR (see 9/18/2026 report). H2C personnel noted that the lower quality level of the pump meant that receipt inspections were only intended to verify the serial number and manufacturer information of the pump and not to inspect pump components or perform any disassembly or reassembly of the pump. The check valve is installed by the equipment manufacturer, and workers performed the installation assuming a like-for-like replacement.

Building 324: An RI observed a job hazards analysis meeting and shadowed a subsequent walkdown of parts of Building 324 for a work package to stabilize crane rail enclosures and a high-level vault hood, one of several work activities needed to prepare the facility for grout stabilization and demolition. The RI noted that all attendees were knowledgeable about the scope, tools, and chemicals to be used as part of the work, providing feedback to the work planner that resulted in material improvements to the job hazards analysis and draft work package. The RI also identified a potential order-of-operations concern with one of the work steps, which was acknowledged by the work planner for adjustment. The work area walkdowns were conducted adequately, and the RI discussed elements of the work with the field work supervisor, who was knowledgeable about both the work package steps and skill-of-the-craft techniques that will be used during the work.