

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 13, 2017

**TO:** S. A. Stokes, Technical Director  
**FROM:** P. Fox and D. Gutowski Hanford Site Representatives  
**SUBJECT:** Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending January 13, 2017

D. Cleaves was on site providing site rep support, and K. Amundson was on site for site familiarization.

**Site Wide.** Abnormally cold temperatures and heavier than normal snowfalls continue to impact site operations. Snowfall closures or delays occurred on five of the last seven days. The most visibly affected work projects are Plutonium Reclamation Facility (PRF) demolition and AY-102 retrieval. At the PRF, weather has stopped progress on demolition for the past two weeks and has prevented consistent application of fixative to exposed areas of the facility. At the tank farms, cold temperatures or snow accumulation have prevented retrieval operations during 31 of the 56 available shifts since restart of retrieval operations (see Activity Report 12/16/2016).

**Waste Treatment Plant (WTP).** BNI, the WTP prime contractor, and AECOM announced the formation of a new special purpose entity called the Waste Treatment Completion Company (WTCC). Although the WTP prime contractor will retain accountability for the entire WTP work scope, work related to construction completion, conducting startup, and commissioning will be subcontracted to the new entity. ORP and the contractor expect this arrangement to provide better management of the complex strategy and related activities that support start of the direct feed of waste to the LAW facility. They also state that this change better enables the sequenced WTP completion approach that results in operating LAW, Lab, and utility facilities at the WTP site while construction is still in progress on the HLW and PTF facilities.

**Sludge Treatment Project.** A worker was found performing work without required respiratory protection. The subsequent critique identified weaknesses in respiratory protection program implementation and related worker training.

**Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility (WESF).** The contractor has completed characterization efforts and is developing a work plan to restore radiation levels to normal in the WESF canyon after grouting operations resulted in the development of high radiation fields (see Activity Report 12/23/2016). The characterization determined that the radiation field results from contamination holdup at a single location in a temporary vent duct that was installed to support the grouting activity. Holdup was also identified in a temporary ventilation heater that is attached to the duct. The recovery effort will require removal of contaminated equipment. Non-permanent shielding will be used to reduce worker radiation dose during the work. The contractor will also realign temporary ventilation paths to support the work and to support future grouting activities.

**222-S Laboratory.** The contractor performed an Incident Command Post Limited drill simulating a seismic event causing partial collapse of the lab with an aftershock collapsing the adjacent REDOX facility (see Activity Report 3/18/2016).

**Richland Operations Office.** T. Fletcher started his assignment as the Deputy Site Manager.