

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 10, 2017

**TO:** S. A. Stokes, Technical Director  
**FROM:** P. Fox and D. Gutowski, Hanford Resident Inspectors  
**SUBJECT:** Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending March 10, 2017

**Tank Farms.** In December, a safety-significant (SS) thermocouple tree in AP farm was removed and replaced to support the automation project. The safety equipment compliance database (SECD) was not updated until this week and instead continued to list the component as active with information from the previous installation. This thermocouple was not required to be operable to perform its safety function during this time period. The contractor has instituted a timely order that requires that SS components be deactivated in the SECD prior to modification, replacement, or maintenance that may affect the safety function of the component.

The resident inspectors observed an emergency preparedness field drill involving a tank deflagration in AP farm. They again noted significant event scene performance weaknesses.

**Solid Waste Operations Complex (SWOC).** The contractor's Plant Review Committee determined that the PISA related to seismically induced fires at the facility (see Activity Report 2/24/2017) is a positive USQ since it identifies an accident not currently analyzed in the DSA. The contractor is working to develop an evaluation of the safety situation. Compensatory measures that preclude introduction of additional combustible material into the SWOC facilities remain in place pending completion of the analysis.

**Plutonium Finishing Plant.** The contractor's Corrective Action Review Board (CARB) met to assess recent events that point toward declining performance in radiological and work control (see Activity Report 2/24/2017). Although data seems to indicate that the number of events per month are declining, the CARB chairperson noted that the large number of weather closures and holidays over the last three months may be masking a developing trend in the other direction. He also noted that the number of adverse events is rising despite the decline in total number of events. The CARB held a substantive discussion regarding the data, ongoing work dynamics, and project status. During the discussion, CARB members proposed a number of actions designed to address apparent causes of the recent events and the changing project environment as the project nears completion.

The contractor has resumed demolition of the Plutonium Reclamation Facility after recovering from the contamination event that occurred in late January (see Activity Report 2/3/2017).

**REDOX Plant.** The contractor held a critique after the superstructure of a crane that is used to perform critical lifts above the REDOX plant struck a ladder stored on a service truck while performing pre-lift operational checks. During the critique, contractor management directed several actions designed to improve the formality of crane operation during installation of the new roof (see Activity Report 10/28/2016).

**Waste Treatment Plant.** The contractor briefed ORP on the technical basis and process modeling that supports their hazard categorization for the Low Activity Waste Facility (see Activity Report 7/22/2016).