

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 24, 2017

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: P. Fox and D. Gutowski, Hanford Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending November 24, 2017

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP). The contractor submitted, and ORP subsequently approved a revised safety evaluation process. This process is one of the tools used to manage changes to the configuration of the design basis including changes that will affect the design safety basis contained in DSA after the DSA is approved. The contractor will use the safety evaluation process until the Unreviewed Safety Question (USQ) process is implemented at a time defined in an approved DSA implementation plan. The contractor currently intends to use the safety evaluation process through startup and testing of WTP facilities. Qualified individuals use this “USQ like” procedure to perform initial screening of proposed changes to the facility design. Design changes that meet threshold criteria enter a determination process that evaluates the impact of the change on the safety basis. If the change does affect the safety basis, the change is forwarded to DOE for approval prior to implementing the change. This revision of the process is also designed to leverage the contractor engineering impact evaluation process which will package all documents related to a change prior to submitting the change into the screening/determination process. This packaging of documents will reduce the number of safety evaluations which, in turn, should improve process results and efficiency.

Based on hazard control changes stemming from the new draft Process Hazard Analysis (PrHA) engineering study, ORP authorized the contractor to modify the LAW design. They plan to remove two controls that no longer serve a credited safety function in the new PrHA and the draft in-process Low Activity Waste (LAW) DSA. These are the LAW Air Particulate Filters and associated differential pressure indicators, and the penetration sealing mechanisms in the process and effluent cells. They also changed the location of calibration gas bottles, which will be moved to the exterior of the facility.

Tank Farms. The contractor continues field work to prepare AX farm for retrieval in support of the Tri-Party Agreement. With the completion of C farm retrieval, the plan is to move to AX farm and then A farm. Major work completed so far to support AX farm retrieval includes installation of two portable exhausters for tank ventilation, cleanout of over half of the pump and sluicer pits, completion of an air and water service building, and removal of several legacy long length equipment items such as pumps, sluicers, and thermocouples. Many of the long length equipment removals have been challenging due to components getting stuck in the risers.

The contractor completed a transfer from AP-106 to AW-102 to support the next evaporator campaign.

Hanford Site. DOE released a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) and announced that they would hold a pre-solicitation conference for the contract that will replace the current site mission support contract which expires in May of 2019. Input from interested parties will be used to develop the final RFP for the procurement. The pre-solicitation conference will be held during the week of December 11, 2017.