

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 16, 2018

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: P. Fox, Hanford Resident Inspector
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending March 16, 2018

DNFSB Staff Activity. P. Foster was onsite to receive training and to perform resident inspector support activities.

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). A subject matter expert team chartered by Jacobs Engineering Group (JEG), the owner of CH2M Hill, completed an in-depth assessment of the contractor's radiological control program. The purpose of the assessment was to uncover weaknesses and propose improvements to strengthen the program in order to preclude recurrence of problems similar to the December PFP contamination spread (see Activity Report 12/22/2017). The assessment included a horizontal review of the contractor's central radiological control program and a vertical review of the PFP project team's implementation of the program. A follow-up phase of the review will look at the contractor's effectiveness in implementing corrective actions related to the program and their field radiological control performance. The team presented their findings in an out brief to DOE.

The resident inspector observed a meeting that is part of a series that the contractor is holding to evaluate the causes of a recent material management TSR non-compliance (see Activity Report 2/23/2018). The meeting was attended by the appropriate subject matter experts and the discussion was open and correctly focused.

Plutonium Uranium Extraction Plant. DOE-RL held a public meeting to discuss their request for a modification to their Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit. If approved, the modification will allow DOE-RL to stabilize storage tunnel 2 with engineered grout. During the meeting, they provided background information related to the tunnel, the reason for the stabilization effort, and the basis for their decision to use grout. The public comment period for the permit modification will close on April 12th. After that, the Washington Department of Ecology will make a decision regarding the modification. An additional public comment period will follow and will include a public hearing, if one is requested. The contractor is currently characterizing the tunnel and planning the stabilization work. DOE-RL intends to start the stabilization work late in the fiscal year if the permit modification is approved.

Hanford Site. DOE announced that Thomas Fletcher will vacate his current position as the DOE-RL Deputy Manager to become the DOE-ORP Assistant Manager for the Waste Treatment Plant (AMWTP). William Hamel, the current AMWTP, will become the DOE-RL Assistant Manager for Safety and Environment. DOE-RL will fill the Deputy Manager position through competition. Additionally, JEG announced that John Lehew will become the PFP Demolition Manager. In this role, he will report directly to the JEG CHPRC Board Chair. He replaces John Fulton who was assigned to the position when it was initially created to manage recovery operations following the December contamination spread event. Lastly, a DOE-RL Facility Representative candidate completed final qualification. He is assigned to provide oversight of the PRC's waste and fuels management project.