

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 9, 2018

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: M. T. Sautman and Z. C. McCabe, Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Activity Report for Week Ending November 9, 2018

Building 235-F: The resident inspectors observed workers sweeping the floor of a Cell 1 wing cabinet and bagging out the collected material in cans. Approximately one inch of “dust” covers most of the floor. Based on the very low plutonium content so far, workers switched from using 8-ounce cans to a 32-ounce cans.

Salt Waste Processing Facility: The resident inspectors observed portions of the Integrated Water Run including pre-job briefs, equipment walk downs, field work, and control room activities. In this test, water is transferred from an Alpha Sorption Tank to a Filter Feed tank and processed through one filter loop and transferred to the Salt Solution Feed Tank. In addition, water is processed through the contactors and sent to the Intermediate Storage Tank and then the Decontaminated Salt Solution Hold Tank. As would be expected, the test is identifying some equipment issues that need fixing.

Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF): A SRR independent evaluator walking by a worksite outside DWPF observed two operators in a radiological material area placing bagged radiological waste into a B-25 waste container without radiological protection department (RPD) support. The independent evaluator informed management of the issue. However, the operators completed their task before anyone intervened. In addition to placing the waste in the B-25, the operators transferred a bag of radiologically contaminated laundry to DWPF via a buggy. Once the operators finished the task, they did monitor themselves for radiological contamination and passed. The first line manager did not direct the operators to involve RPD when he tasked them with this work. Additionally, the radiological material area boundary posting stated to contact RPD personnel prior to entry. The B-25 waste container radiological label had a similar note. Discussions during an issue investigation revealed that the movement of this waste and laundry was not discussed during a pre-job brief. Further, the two operators stated that they were aware of the requirement to have RPD support to perform this task, but did not recognize their error at the time of the event.

Tritium Facilities: Tritium personnel convened a facility radiological action team (FRAT) meeting to discuss the upcoming open glovebox maintenance (OGM) at H-Area New Manufacturing (HANM). The activity will consist of HANM personnel in plastic suits replacing a load line glovebox recirculation fan which recirculates nitrogen within the glovebox. Unlike other recent OGM activities at Tritium Facilities, this evolution is only expected to last several days and will not involve the removal of multiple glovebox windows, but rather consist of the removal of a single panel covering the recirculation fan and the breaching of three gloves for ventilation purposes. The resident inspector attended the thorough initial pre-job brief and walked down the nearly finished hut. HANM personnel expect to certify the hut and begin work next week.