

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 12, 2019

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 July 12, 2019

Recommendation 2012-1: DOE directed SRNS to stop the removal of material at risk (MAR) from Building 235-F and process with activities necessary to deactivate the building by placing it in a “cold and dark” condition. DOE stated that they believed that sufficient MAR had been removed to enable a successful negotiation on the building end state. They also stated that SRNS had made adequate progress on Recommendation deliverables for this performance period; therefore, the risk to workers by attempting additional MAR removal is not warranted. Preliminary enhanced non-destructive assay results of the cells and wing cabinet suggest less MAR may have actually been removed than was expected based on previous waste assay results.

Tank Farms: The safety class Tank 30 purge system fan failed. As a rapid generation tank, SRR has 30 days to restore the system to operable. SRR already had a spare motor and began preparations to install it. In addition, an exit survey found contamination on the personal shoe of a maintenance mechanic who had been welding in a 299-H decontamination cell. SRR later found a small hole in the shoe cover and bootie. SRR is planning to use a puncture guard barrier for foot protection during welding, grinding, and drilling activities in contamination areas.

Salt Waste Processing Facility: The Resident Inspectors provided Parsons some observations on the question bank used for oral boards. The training manager implemented compensatory actions.

H-Area Old Manufacturing (HAOM): A subcontractor was training a new engineer on reservoir design when they inadvertently dropped an empty (never filled) reservoir on the floor. The subcontractor picked up the reservoir and placed it back into the original location before exiting the room and informing control room personnel. Control room personnel correctly determined that there was no safety issue associated with the dropped reservoir. After the incident, Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) personnel learned that the subcontractor picked up the reservoir by the cap without gloves and had done this many times over several years (always with empty reservoirs). SRTE reservoir handlers are trained to wear gloves and pick up the reservoirs by the body; however, this individual had not had this required training. The subcontractor is a subject matter expert who had previously been employed at Savannah River Tritium Enterprise for several years.

L-Area: The resident inspector observed a coached facility drill involving a fire and medical emergency in a transformer room. This was the first field drill where L-Area operations staff were in control of the response rather than relying on the K-Area shift operations manager (see 12/19/14, 8/10/18, and 6/21/19 weekly reports).