

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 19, 2019

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: B. Caleca and P. Fox, Hanford Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending July 19, 2019

B. Caleca was offsite attending DNFSB staff work planning meetings at DNFSB headquarters.

Building 324: The contractor's Hazard Review Board (HRB) met to evaluate changes to the work instructions that they will use to continue their effort to drill pilot holes inside the facility. The work instruction changes incorporate revised controls intended to limit potential contamination spreads and further protect workers from radiological contamination (see 7/12/2019 report). The control set now includes the use of impermeable coveralls, which increases the potential for heat stress problems. However, the contractor will use physiological monitoring to mitigate that risk. The HRB meeting was formally conducted and resulted in a meaningful dialog regarding the control set. Additionally, the Field Work Supervisor demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the revised controls.

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): DOE's Office of Enterprise Assessments (EA) delivered the final report of their assessment of the contractor's readiness to restart higher risk demolition activities at the PFP. The assessment was performed concurrently with the contractor's management assessment (see 5/3/2019 report) and provided an independent assessment of readiness. They determined that the contractor management assessment was adequately conducted and effective in evaluating the contractor's readiness to resume higher risk demolition activities. Additionally, the EA assessment team evaluated RL's oversight of PFP demolition activities and determined that their oversight is effective, and that RL is prepared to provide adequate oversight of higher risk demolition activities at PFP.

Liquid Effluent Retention Facility (LERF): LERF is currently a less than hazard category (HAZCAT) three radiological facility. The categorization is based on an analysis that assumes that the entire source term contained in the three LERF basins is liquid. However, recent work to support replacement of the Basin 44 cover identified the presence of sludge material in the basin. The contractor's Plant Review Committee (PRC) met to evaluate the new information. They determined that the facility may not be properly categorized and then conservatively decided to declare a potential inadequacy in the safety analysis even though the facility is not currently a HAZCAT 1, 2, or 3 facility. The PRC subsequently reviewed previously imposed operational restrictions and determined that, with minor modifications, they provide adequate compensatory measures pending completion of an unresolved safety question determination.

Hanford Site: A wildland fire burned significant areas of the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve on the western side of the site. There was no impact to nuclear facilities or operations.

Waste Treatment Plant: The ORP Senior Review Board (SRB) met to evaluate an amendment to the Low Activity Facility DSA. The amendment adds heat sensors in C2V ventilation ducting to close a gap in the facility's strategy for detection of a steam system rupture that could damage safety instrumentation or components. The amendment also fulfills the requirement for the first annual update of the DSA. The SRB recommended approval.