

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 3, 2020

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: Timothy L. Hunt, Cognizant Engineer
SUBJECT: Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Report for March 2020

DNFSB Staff Activity: No staff members were on site during March 2020.

COVID-19 Response Status. Fluor Idaho implemented a phased approach on March 4, 2020, to address the evolving COVID-19 situation. At that time, a modified Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) Continuity Emergency Response Group (CERG) was activated. Fluor Idaho has placed all business travel on hold, minimized in-person meetings, canceled tours and visits, adjusted schedules for personnel to reduce potential exposure, and launched telecommuting. Effective March 26, Fluor Idaho activated the COOP Pandemic Plan. Ongoing essential mission critical operations at ICP facilities include waste packaging and shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and processing of a debris waste stream at the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project. In addition, Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) actions for transitioning to essential mission critical status included placing construction activities in a safe configuration, deferring preventative maintenance coming due during the administrative leave period, and transitioning operations, maintenance, and radiation protection crews to min safe staffing during weekends.

Seismic Activity in INL Vicinity. A 6.5 magnitude earthquake centered about 150 miles west of INL occurred during the evening of March 31, 2020. It was felt in the Idaho Falls/INL area as very light trembling for 20-30 seconds. None of the seismometers at INL tripped. Inspections at the Radiological Waste Management Complex and Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center found no damage.

IWTU Pressure Vessel Modification. During Outage J, Fluor Idaho made modifications to the product handling vacuum filter (PHVF), an ASME Boiler Pressure Vessel Code (BPVC) U-stamped vessel (the ASME "U" stamp is certification that an unfired pressure vessel was designed, fabricated, inspected and tested to Section VIII of the ASME Code). Fluor Idaho made the modifications without ASME BPVC certified personnel review and approval, negating the certification (stamp) of the PHVF. The management review focused on how it was missed that the PHVF was a U-stamped pressure vessel and not tracked on the IWTU pressure vessel list, and not on the project equipment list so planners know that the equipment is stamped. Fluor Idaho is deciding whether or not to recertify the PHVF, evaluate if it actually needs the ASME BPVC U-stamp, or downgrade the PHVF and four other similarly stamped IWTU pressure vessels.

Breach of Containment Structure at Accelerated Retrieval Project (ARP) V. On March 24, during dismantlement, a containment tent ("tunnel") connecting ARP V to ARP III unexpectedly breached as the fabric pulled away about four feet at the ARP V connection during high winds. The temporary tunnel was erected in February 2020 to facilitate the relocation of heavy equipment used in the RWMC cleanup effort from ARP V to other ARP facilities. Workers reattached the fabric to the ARP V framing within 12 hours. Negative ventilation was maintained in ARP V throughout the event and no contamination was detected outside the structure. The tunnel was dismantled on March 26, with the openings in ARP V and ARP III patched and sealed.