

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 15, 2020

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: B. Caleca and P. Fox, Hanford Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending May 15, 2020

Hanford Site: Hanford site DOE and contractor management continue to follow federal and state guidance to reduce the transmission of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) (see 5/8/2020 report). The Richland Operations/Office of River Protection (RL/ORP) manager has extended the current essential mission critical operations posture through the week of May 18.

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL): A Resident Inspector met with representatives of the Pacific Northwest Site Office to discuss their ongoing actions related to COVID-19 response at the PNNL. The DOE representatives outlined their process for selecting, managing, and overseeing essential mission work, and controls that are in place for protecting workers who must report to the laboratory while it is in the current essential mission critical operations status. They have developed a plan to manage their eventual return to normal operations. The plan is undergoing review prior to approval.

Radiochemical Processing Laboratory (RPL): PNNL RPL management held a meeting to gather information related to the discovery of a leaking bag of radiological waste which resulted in a spread of contamination into a radiological buffer area (RBA). During the day prior to discovery of the leak, Field Services (FS) personnel had moved the waste bag from a storage shelf to a transfer cart. The FS personnel had worn reusable work gloves, which were then removed prior to exiting the RBA. The contamination on the gloves was discovered during extent of condition (EOC) surveys that were performed after the leaking bag was discovered. The EOC surveys did not identify any further contamination spread. The fact finding meeting was effective in determining facts related to the event.

Tank Farms: DOE awarded the Tank Closure Contract to Hanford Works Restoration, LLC (HWR). HWR is a team that is led by BWXT Technical Services Group, Inc. and includes Flour Federal Services, Inc. along with INTERA, Inc., and DBD, Inc. as preselected subcontractors. The new contract is one of the four large prime contracts that enable cleanup work on Hanford site and covers a scope similar to the current Tank Operations Contract (TOC), which is held by Washington River Protection Solutions, a team led by Amentum and includes Atkins Nuclear Secured, LLC. The TOC expires on September 30, 2020, but has a clause that allows the government to end it earlier to align with a 60-day transition period to the new contract.

Building 324: Contractor personnel completed an Apparent Cause Evaluation of the potentially contaminated Hydraulic Power Unit that was sent offsite (see 1/17/2020 and 2/7/2020 reports). Due to the site's current posture, the resident inspector observed several teleconferences held to gather information and develop the report. The finalized report notes that radiological work planning assumptions about the system being a closed loop during drilling and using quick-disconnects designed to prevent debris from entering the system were not documented, and recommends an improvement to the contractor's radiological work planning procedure to improve documentation of controls for preventing internal contamination.