

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 5, 2020

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: Z. C. McCabe, Resident Inspector
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Activity Report for Week Ending June 5, 2020

COVID-19: The site transition from Phase 0 to Phase 1 continued this week with the return of hundreds of personnel on site from weather and safety leave and telework with hundreds more expected to return next week.

SRS has 23 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. One case has been confirmed within the last seven days. Currently there are 34 personnel in active quarantine.

Safety Basis Implementation: The implementation verification review (IVR) for the revised Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) and Technical Safety Requirements (TSR) that include the plutonium down blending process at K-Area continued this week. The resident inspector observed the pre-job brief for and a portion of the mock evolution for the IVR team. Although not in scope for the IVR, the team members noted multiple issues during the mock evolution including procedural improvements and formality of operations. The resident inspector had similar observations. In the resident inspector's opinion the preparation lacked the appropriate level of formality as well. For instance, rather than formally documenting the procedure steps that would be simulated (for various reasons) with explanations, K-Area personnel simply made notes in the margin of the procedure and listed the step numbers during the pre-job brief. The resident inspector also called into interviews of engineering and operations personnel conducted by the IVR team.

The IVR for the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) DSA and TSR revision that implements the new fire water supply also continued this week. The resident inspector observed the IVR interviews for SRNL operations and engineering personnel and the walkdown of the new general service fire water tank and pump house. During the walkdown, one of the IVR team members noted that the valves (owned by site services rather than SRNL) between the new fire water tank and the piping that is credited as safety significant were not labeled as potentially impacting a safety system. SRNL personnel have since placed tags on the valves that require the SRNL shift operations manager to be contacted prior to manipulating the valves.

Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF): The resident inspector called into a return to work briefing for SWPF personnel transitioning back to the site after teleworking or being on weather and safety leave during Phase 0 of SRS's response to COVID-19. Subsequently, the session transitioned to addressing two of the remaining corrective actions from the DOE Operational Readiness Review (DORR) findings regarding radiation protection and compliance with radiological protection procedures. The topics covered included a review of proper radiological work practices, regulatory and local limits, control of radiation areas, conduct of operations fundamentals, and lessons learned from the DORR.