

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 25, 2020

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 September 25, 2020

Emergency Preparedness: The resident inspector observed a core Emergency Response Organization tabletop drill that was mostly conducted remotely. The scenario involved a simulated hurricane hitting SRS and causing widespread flooding and a failure of an earthen dam onsite. The drill discussion mostly used a conference call line that was supplemented by WebEOC and Microsoft® Teams. One purpose of the drill was to test such remote capabilities.

Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF): The revised Emergency Planning Hazards Assessment does not include any scenarios whose consequences require classification of operational emergencies. The main reason for this is that the analyzed scenarios were evaluated as elevated releases through the exhaust stack versus ground level releases. As a result, Parsons is planning to stop conducting emergency preparedness (EP) drills and exercises, cancel their EP administration and implementing procedures, and either cancel their EP training or limit it to facility response. SWPF information will no longer be maintained in the Technical Support Room. Conduct of operations drills will still be conducted and will focus on protective actions, control room evacuation, spills, radiological contamination, first aid, and fires.

Parsons completed their 3 batch simulant run.

Oral Board: The resident inspector (RI) observed an SRR shift operations manager oral board where the candidate had a Bluetooth headset in their ear the entire time. While the RI did not believe it was being used during the Board, the RI talked to SRR and SRNS training managers to ensure such devices would be banned from future boards due to the possibility of misuse.

The RI observed an SRNS oral board for the requalification of a shift operations manager. The conduct and grading of the board were appropriate.

235-F: Due to budget uncertainty for fiscal year 2022 and beyond, the latest revision of the Deactivation Plan includes an alternate strategy that reflects a potential pause midway through deactivation. In this case, the ventilation reconfiguration, electrical/mechanical isolation, and some removal of combustibles and waste would be delayed.

Savannah River National Laboratory: There was a near miss during an experiment in the Hydrogen Research Technology Laboratory (non-nuclear facility) where a quartz tube in a tube furnace energetically failed, causing damage to the sash hood and hood light fixture. No one was in the laboratory room when the event occurred. SRNL personnel are investigating.

H-Canyon: The safety engineer noted just before beginning the work that a pole camera inspection of the delaying basin would bring the pole camera in close proximity of overhead electrical lines. This was not noted in the hazards analysis for the task; as such, H-Canyon personnel called a timeout.