

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 4, 2020

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

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

COVID-19 Update. INL entered Phase 2 of its Reconstitution Plan on June 3, 2020, and remained in Phase 2 throughout November 2020. The state of Idaho retrogressed from Stage 3 to a modified Stage 2 during the month, reimposing additional restrictions.

Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) Safety Basis Documents. On November 10, 2020, the DOE Idaho Operations Office (DOE-ID) approved, via a Safety Evaluation Report (SER), revisions to the IWTU Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) and Technical Safety Requirements (TSR), as well as the proposed Evaluation of the Safety of the Situation for the installed bypass blower components not made from stainless steel. The safety basis documents were submitted for DOE-ID review and approval by Fluor Idaho to support the next simulant/confirmatory run. Fluor made significant changes to the hazard analyses and controls sections of the DSA, including, updated carbon dust deflagration and standard industrial hazard discussions; an updated hazardous chemical inventory accident analysis; removal of some systems, components, and actions as safety significant controls; and clarification and enhancement of the specific administrative control evaluation for minimum staffing. In the TSR document revision, Fluor Idaho changed the frequency of some required surveillances, and revised, simplified, or clarified several limiting conditions for operation. There are no conditions of approval specified in the SER.

Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) Recertification Audit of the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP). On October 28, 2020, the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) issued an *Interim Audit Report of the AMWTP for TRU Waste Activities*. The audit team concluded that, overall, the AMWTP TRU waste program procedures that characterize certain groups of contact-handled waste (S3000 solids, S4000 soils/gravel, and S5000 debris wastes) adequately address upper-tier requirements. The processes for characterizing the subject wastes were satisfactorily implemented in all areas, with the exception of visual examinations (VE), where implementation was deemed marginal. Also, no completed Enhanced Acceptable Knowledge (AK) products and no AK Summary Report have been developed for a specific S4000 waste stream; therefore, AK for S4000 waste was judged indeterminate. The audit team identified thirteen concerns—six were classified as conditions adverse to quality; five classified as observations; one was corrected during the audit; and one was a recommendation. The final audit report will be issued when all corrective actions identified during the audit have been completed.

Preliminary Notice of Violation (PNOV) Related to Drum Overpressurization Event. The DOE Office of Enforcement issued a PNOV on November 20, 2020, related to the drum overpressurization event that occurred on April 11, 2018, at the Accelerated Retrieval Project V facility. DOE considers this event to have had both a high potential for significant worker exposure to airborne radioactive material and the release of radioactive material to the environment. Fluor Idaho has already taken corrective actions but must file a written response.