

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 19, 2021

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: B. Caleca and P. Fox, Hanford Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending March 19, 2021

DNFSB Staff Activity: Members of the technical staff met with DOE and site service contractor personnel to discuss aspects of the Hanford Site Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) Program. Primary topics included implementation of DOE Order 151.1D, *Comprehensive Emergency Management System*, emergency communication methods and infrastructure, DOE oversight of the site program, emergency categorization/classification responsibilities, emergency exercise practices, and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on site EP&R readiness.

105-KW Basin: On Monday, contractor management paused the performance of an assessment of their readiness to start retrieval of garnet filter media from the basin's three garnet filters (see 3/12/2021 report). The pause was necessary to resolve assessment team questions related to the adequacy of affidavits and evidence used to support their readiness declaration. The assessment resumed Wednesday after facility management updated the information to resolve the questions.

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP): A resident inspector observed the performance of Radiological Worker (RadWorker) Training that was recently developed by the WTP contractor training staff to train facility personnel involved in direct feed low activity waste operations at WTP. They will use the new program instead of the existing site RadWorker training program and expect to train approximately 500 personnel prior to Low Activity Waste Facility startup. As presented, the program lacks maturity and does not fully cover expected knowledge and skill criteria established in DOE Handbook 1130, *Radiological Worker Training*. Although most general knowledge topics were adequately covered, there were weaknesses in the presentation of facility specific information, and few practical demonstrations or exercises. Additionally the available mockup, equipment, scenarios, and staffing did not support effective performance of the required practical skills evaluation. Lastly, the classroom and available equipment does not support effective performance of a hybrid training approach that the contractor is using that allows virtual attendance of the classroom training.

Building 324: The contractor completed Phase II corrective actions. This allows contractor personnel to perform surveys, cleanup, and reconfiguration activities in Room 18 to improve contamination control prior to restarting pilot hole drilling operations (see 3/12/2021 report).

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): Contractor personnel are preparing to resume demolition work at PFP. Activities performed this week included a field drill and a hazard review board (HRB) which reviewed the latest revisions of the demolition work package. Performance on the drill was substantially better than the noted during a previous field drill, and the HRB did not identify any significant concerns when approving the revised work package. The most significant change to debris retrieval is the use of roll on, roll off containers that are welded shut to prevent leakage. They will be buried along with the waste they carry at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. Demolition will resume once a final disposition decision is made regarding the 216-Z-2 crib (see 1/22/2021 report) and subsequent re-establishment of radiological boundaries consistent with the air dispersion model for demolition activities.