

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 21, 2022

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: L. Lin, Z. C. McCabe, E. P. Richardson Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Activity Report for Week Ending January 21, 2022

Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF): In response to four recent TSR violations, SWPF developed a comprehensive safety basis training course for all operations personnel as one of the corrective actions. The resident inspector observed portions of the first of five sessions which took place on January 18-20, 2022. The training consisted of a review of lessons learned, basic TSR information, an exam, along with interactive tabletop and simulator scenarios. The training courses were engaging covering appropriate material and the training group personnel were well prepared. Overall, the training session was an effective step towards re-baselining the operations personnel in attendance regarding safety basis knowledge. A higher level of operations and facility management participation would have been beneficial; however, numerous absences precluded this.

Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL): On 12/7/2021, BSRA shipped two 55-gallon drums containing radioactive material to a university with incorrect transit documentation and without proper external markings for over the road transit based on Department of Transportation (DOT) guidelines. The university identified the error upon receipt on 12/10/2021 and informed BSRA, but no further notifications were made by the contractor to management or oversight until 1/13/2022 when the issue was first reported to BSRA management. An incorrect calculation was attached to the electronic shipping order which led to the mislabeling of the drums. In addition to errors discussed, the issue investigation process exhibited by BSRA requires improvement. During two meetings attended by the resident inspector on 1/18/2021 and 1/19/2021, the fact-finding team struggled to reach a consensus on identifying the initiating action, causes or contributing factors. Further meetings were required to establish the path forward.

Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE): The resident inspector observed an oral board for a shift operations manager position at H-Area New Manufacturing. The evaluation of the candidate was appropriate based on questions asked by the board committee. During the evaluation, the committee discussed some areas for improvement such as the candidate not discussing specific limiting conditions for operations and procedures; however, the generic nature of some of the questions and follow-up discussion did drive the candidate to provide that information or demonstrate that knowledge. For instance, the candidate was able to successfully complete the examination without opening a single reference.