

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 3, 2024

**TO:** Timothy J. Dwyer, Technical Director  
**FROM:** L. Lin, Z.C. McCabe, and E.P. Richardson, Resident Inspectors  
**SUBJECT:** Savannah River Site Activity Report for Week Ending May 3, 2024

**Tank Farms:** Radiological Protection Department (RPD) personnel were performing a monthly radiological buffer area (RBA) boundary survey on March 29 when they discovered higher dose rates than normal on the flush water piping outside of H-Area Diversion Box #8 (HDB-8). RPD measured 30 mrem/hr near the flush water line outside the HDB-8 building, which was in a radiologically controlled area. RPD found 35,000 dpm/100cm<sup>2</sup> beta-gamma and no alpha on the ground near the flush water line valve. The area was barricaded and posted as a contamination area with an RBA around it. Since the event, RPD has performed surveys of the flush water piping at HDB-8 at a minimum of twice per week to ensure the contamination is contained and not migrating. Tank Farms personnel initiated an issue investigation regarding the contamination and high dose rates at HDB-8, but facility management appropriately paused the meeting since the personnel familiar with the event were not in attendance. The personnel at the issue investigation could not talk to the transfers and activities from the previous month that could have contributed to the event, and additional action items were discussed (e.g., performing radiological surveys on other valves, verifying the positions of all the isolation and check valves that connect to the flush water tank, and flushing the line) to gather information prior to resuming the issue investigation.