

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 5, 2024

TO: Timothy J. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: Mark T. Wright, Cognizant Engineer
SUBJECT: Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Report for September 2024

DNFSB Staff Activity. The Board's INL cognizant engineer held weekly meetings to maintain awareness of site activities, including attending event fact findings, management reviews, integrated project team reviews, and facility plan of the day meetings.

Multiple Vehicular Incidents. Vehicle incidents continue to be an issue at INL, with four occurring in September 2024 (See December 2023 and July 2024 monthly reports). On September 3, a driver in an articulating dump truck was hauling gravel to the subsurface disposal area of the radioactive waste management complex. The driver lost control of the truck and it overturned, fortunately without injury. On September 10, an operator was using a yard dog truck at CPP-1617 to move a loaded waste trailer. The operator did not raise the trailer landing gear prior to moving, damaging the landing gear. The waste remained in place on the trailer. On September 19, a driver in a government owned pickup truck struck a guardrail near CPP-659 shortly after re-entering the truck and driving forward. The short guardrail was low enough that it was not visible from the cab and the impact caused minor damage to the truck and guardrail. On September 23, a forklift operator was moving a loaded standard waste box (SWB) in WMF-635 in an evolution to build double stacks. The driver turned and pitched the forklift tines down in preparation for setting the SWB down when the SWB slid off the forklift tines and fell about 8 inches to the ground. The SWB was not visibly damaged and radiological technicians verified that no contamination had occurred. IEC personnel generated independent corrective action reports for each of these events, though only the truck/guardrail impact has developed corrective actions at this time. IEC personnel have started looking at vehicle accidents over the past year to assess any common causes. The DOE Idaho Cleanup Project facility safety team is reviewing the contractor response to these events.

Flame from Drum in Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Facility North Boxline. On September 23, 2024, operators were unloading 100-gallon criticality clean out puck drums into the north boxline trough for processing. These drums were from the BN510 waste stream. When one of the drums was tipped over, operators saw a brief flame emanate from the bottom of the drum, potentially from a small area of corrosion. Operators immediately stopped operations and began visually and thermally monitoring the drum for further signs of flame or heat, which did not occur in the 24-hours after the initial flame. IEC personnel are investigating the cause of this flame and have suspended all movement and shipment of BN510 wastes until the event is better characterized.

Accelerated Retrieval Project (ARP) Decontamination and Demolition (D&D) Update. Since the last update in May 2024, IEC personnel have continued to advance D&D activities as part of an ongoing reclamation effort for the ARP facilities. IEC personnel completed demolition of WMF-698, followed by ARP VIII, ARP VII, and finally ARP IX. ARP IX was the last of the large structures remaining on the ARP site, and its demolition marks a major D&D milestone for ARP. IEC personnel completed these demolition activities without the spread of contamination. Remaining D&D activities include size reduction of ARP IX remains, placing soil covers over the remains of ARP IX and relocating temporary trailers.