

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 5, 2008

TO: T. J. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: W. Linzau and R. Quirk, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending September 5, 2008

Tank Farms: The contractor completed the cleanup of waste spilled from S-102 last year. The area excavated was covered with landscaping fabric and then backfilled with gravel.

The 242-A evaporator started a cold run this week, using raw water rather than tank waste. The purposes of the cold run include completing the tests of the new control system, proficiency watch standing, and justifying not requiring an Operational Readiness Review (ORR) prior to operation with tank waste. The evaporator was last operated one year to the day before the start of the cold run. One major piece of equipment, the slurry pump, cannot be operated because limitations related to safe operation of pumps that use variable frequency drives preclude its operation (see Hanford Activity Report 8/29/08).

Sludge Treatment Project: The contractor estimates that shipping the sludge off the river corridor for storage and treatment can be completed approximately five years earlier than treating it in the 100 K Area. Given the desire to expeditiously remove the sludge from the basin so that the area below and around the basin can be remediated, the contractor proposed to DOE that the alternatives analysis should be in two phases. The first phase would be a detailed analysis of the basic options that would result in an early removal of the sludge from the river corridor. The other options would be evaluated further in the second phase. The project is holding a three-day workshop next week with a goal of reducing the number of options that will be evaluated in detail.

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP): The Office of River Protection (ORP) completed a Quality Assurance (QA) assessment of the contractor's configuration management (CM) program and concluded that the CM Plan and implementing procedures capture the requirements in the project's QA Manual, and the implementation was adequate. The assessment team noted a lack of a process to ensure all review comments on vendor-developed drawings are resolved prior to formal acceptance of the drawing by the project. The failure to ensure all review comments are resolved was a contributor to the spill of waste from tank S-102.

Contract Transition: DOE selected Mission Support Alliance, LLC (MSA), to be the contractor for the Mission Support Contract. MSA was formed by Lockheed Martin, Jacobs Engineering, and Wackenhut. The contract transition period is expected to begin in about one month and to complete by the end of the calendar year.

Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS), the new Tank Operations Contractor, completed their due diligence reviews and expects to have the new managers shadow their predecessors during the next few weeks.