

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 3, 2005

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: D. Grover and W. Linzau, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending June 3, 2005

K Basin Closure Project: The second of the tech view pit sludge consolidation containers has been determined to be operationally full. This determination is made by repeated activation of the high-level indication alarm shortly after sludge retrieval commences. Sludge retrieval is now continuing using the weasel pit container. The weasel pit entrance container, which is the final K-East basin container, is being installed this week.

The project has finished removing sufficient empty canisters from the K-West basin to meet the basin disposal criteria. In addition, fuel storage racks removal has been completed to allow the installation of the sludge consolidation containers to progress. The installation of these containers is approximately 25 percent complete. Completion of this effort will allow preparations to consolidate floor sludge in K-West basin to continue while Hose-In-Hose Transfer Line startup activities are being completed.

Plutonium Finishing Plant: The project has been fogging the americium recovery facility control room and tank room to fix contamination in preparation for a manned entry next week. This facility was the site of an ion exchange column explosion and the release of nitric acid solution and americium-loaded resin into the room. Subsequent entry into the facility has been limited with the last entry in 1990. Entries were also made into the facility annex to conduct additional preparatory activities.

Secretary of Energy Visit: Energy Secretary Bodman made his first visit to the Hanford site on Thursday for one-day tour. The visit started with a Department of Energy (DOE) all-hands presentation and a full day of tours including the Pacific Northwest National Labs, the tank farms Cold Test Facility, 300 Area, K-Basins activities, B Reactor, Plutonium Finishing Plant, Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility, Tank Farm, and the Waste Treatment Plant. The Secretary was accompanied on his tours by Congressman Hastings, R-WA, and he met with Governor Gregoire to discuss, among other items, the Tri-party Agreement and the effects of the proposed budget cuts for next year. During the all-hands presentation, Secretary Bodman expressed that he was working to ensure that the Office of Management and Budget and Congress fully understand the complexity of the clean-up efforts at Hanford.

Cc: Board Members