

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 13, 2006

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: R. Quirk and W. Linzau, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for the Week Ending October 13, 2006

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP): The project stopped construction activities to conduct a one-hour meeting to address a negative safety trend. Three events over the last two weeks prompted construction management to call for a safety briefing to all of the construction workforce. The first event occurred when a painter was injured when he fell two feet in a congested area. The second event was when a worker used the wrong-sized fall protection clamp to attach to a steel beam. The clamp became detached from the beam and fell to the floor without injuring the worker or others. The third event was when an energized 240-volt temporary lighting cable was cut during the operation of a man-lift. Construction management called the safety meeting immediately after the third event in order to refocus the workforce on the need to recognize and avoid hazards in the continuously-changing work environment.

Bechtel National, Inc. (BNI) reported that testing by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) of intumescent fire protection coating on W14x90 steel sections showed that the coating did not provide the required two-hour fire rating. Preliminary information indicates the steel exceeded the limiting temperature in about 90 minutes. BNI is considering options that include a retest with intumescent coating or switching to a cementitious coating.

Washington Closure Hanford (WCH): The site reps met separately with RL and WCH management to discuss the corrective actions from deficiencies in work planning that resulted in the work stand-down last week (see Hanford Activity Report 10/6/06). The contractor has expedited the implementation of their new work planning program and will expand its application to all work activities.

The site rep observed the implementation of a work package that was created with the new work planning process. The package was for opening and then characterizing the contents of three radioactive waste storage containers stored on the 1330 N pad. The work was appropriately classified as low-complexity/medium-risk and this resulted in a skill-of-the-craft work package. The package had been modified to address comments from the facility representative, including a need to address "what if" scenarios, although this was not procedurally required for a low-complexity/medium-risk job. The observed radiological controls and industrial safety practices were adequate, and work was stopped when minor problems were encountered.

K Basins Closure: The project completed a lighting survey inside both basins to resolve a pre-start finding from the Hose-in-Hose Transfer System DOE Operational Readiness Review. The survey results indicated that emergency lighting levels were inadequate in five areas in each basin. The site rep noted inadequacies in the short-term compensatory actions and the project will correct them before commencing sludge transfer operations, which are expected to occur next week.