

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 12, 2009

TO: T. J. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: M. P. Duncan and M. T. Sautman, Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Weekly Report for Week Ending June 12, 2009

Tank Farms: As part of the Tank 48 Business Decision, DOE-SR selected Fluidized Bed Steam Reforming for treating Tank 48 organic waste. At F-Tank Farms, the inspection of the Tank 19 interior after mechanical cleaning and spray washing identified two additional leak sites.

H-Canyon: The Site Rep discussed his comments on the draft Technical Safety Requirements (TSRs). Several required actions and administrative control program elements are not in the TSRs themselves, but buried in the TSR bases or in the Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) text. The Board's staff also questioned the technical basis for the current and proposed TSRs for requiring a diesel generator load test every 45 days. DOE O 420.1B and DOE G 420.1-1 state that IEEE 308 is part of the minimal set of codes for safety class electrical systems. IEEE 308 requires that load tests be performed in accordance with IEEE 387, which mandates a load test every 31 days. Based on preliminary feedback, the load test frequency will likely be changed.

Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF): Phase 1 of Transuranic Pad 1 Waste Removal involves retrieving thirteen buried concrete culverts 1) whose plutonium contents are bounded by the current DSA and 2) that can be accessed without exposing high plutonium culverts. The Site Rep observed the mockup of soil removal activities performed for the Phase 1 Independent Assessment.

Conduct of Operations: SRNS is hiring experienced full-time Conduct of Operations mentors, who will be assigned to every American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) field project. The goal is to have the mentors become integrated with the work crews, help the workers and foremen, and ensure that the work is performed with sufficient rigor.

Facility management held a Work Pause this week at H-Canyon and HB-Line to reinforce management expectations. The Site Rep also observed briefings to ARRA new hires on the SRS safety culture and a briefing to the SWMF workforce on the state of conduct of operations there.

P Reactor: Workers in plastic suits began opening the lids and inspecting the contents of seven casks formerly used to transport Co-60 and Po-210. The Site Rep observed job task briefings, field activity, and a post-job review after the first cask had been opened. While it was anticipated that some liquids may be present, work was suspended when the first cask was found to be nearly completely full of liquid. A revision of the Work Instructions and Assisted Hazards Analysis allowed a sample to be taken and most of the liquid to be pumped to a drum.

K Area: The Site Rep observed portions of the successful unloading and storage of the first Hanford Unirradiated Fuel Package (HUFP) into the new storage location. Subsequently, Hanford notified SRS that there were several closed nonconformance reports (NCRs) associated with packages that had already been received at SRS, but failed to note this on the Authorization to Ship Request form. One had been dispositioned "use-as-is". Further unloading operations were suspended pending evaluation of the NCRs against the K Area safety basis.

Contract Transition: The Site Rep had separate meetings with the two contractors to discuss likely changes to the Service Level and Functional Services Agreements. Potential changes involve the purchase of hoisting and rigging, shop work, containments, construction, and some analytical work. No areas of concern to the Board were identified.