

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 31, 2001

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: D. Grover and M. Sautman, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending August 31, 2001

The Board visited Hanford this week. Board members toured the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) and reviewed issues at PFP, the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project, Tank Farms, and the Waste Treatment Plant. The Site Reps and visiting staff also performed walkdowns of K-East and K-West basins as well as several tank farms.

Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): The project revised the design for the fuel transfer system to require the construction of annexes external to the K-West and K-East basins near the dummy elevator pits. The excavation and construction activities for these annexes will be adjacent to the safety class portions of the basin's concrete walls. A staff walkdown of these areas identified concrete pads in contact with the basin walls extending outwards at least 6 feet. In addition, a portion of the basin superstructure in contact with the walls will need to be removed. The risks to basin integrity posed by these activities were not previously examined and will need to be properly evaluated and controlled. (III-A)

Building 324: Mr. Grover performed a walkdown of Building 324 with an emphasis on the continuing cleanup of the hot-cells. With the completion of equipment removal from B-cell, efforts are now focused on D-cell. Equipment skids were transferred from D to B-cell, where they were size-reduced, and packaged into waste containers. While shipping these containers out of Bldg. 324, operations transferred containers full of size-reduced D-cell equipment into A-cell for interim storage. However DOE-RL had only authorized this crane to be used for cleaning out B-cell, not for D-cell related activities. This restriction was imposed after a crane overload accident several months ago. DOE-Richland is reviewing the safety basis implications on the future use of this crane. (III-B)

224-T: Nondestructive analysis of three tanks in E-Cell was conducted. The preliminary results are that each tank contains less than 1 gram of plutonium. This indicates that some deactivation was performed previously. (III-B)

Tank Farms: CH2M Hill Hanford Group is reevaluating how they prepare surfaces for application of a polyurea fixative after workers, who were grinding a pump pit floor while wearing air purifying respirators, were found to have higher than desired lapel air sampler readings. (I-C)

Fluor Hanford: Tony Buhl was named Vice-President of Safety and Mission Assurance.

cc: Board Members