

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 23, 2000

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director

FROM: M. Sautman, Hanford Site Representative

SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending March 23, 2000

Tim Hunt and Mike Merritt reviewed Recommendation 94-1 activities at the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). Mr. Sautman was on annual leave Friday.

A. High Efficiency Air Particulate (HEPA) Filters: Roger Zavadoski and the Site Rep reviewed the testing, maintenance, and operation of safety class and safety significant HEPA filters in nuclear facilities. Some of the injection and sampling ports used for Building 327, double containment receiver tanks, and PFP filter banks and filter boxes to test the filters' efficiency do not comply with ASME N510-1989, *Testing of Nuclear Air Treatment Systems*. The staff also reviewed Hanford's position for not requiring 100% testing of HEPA filters at the DOE Filter Test Facility as required by DOE standards. (3-A)

B. Spent Fuel Project: The Site Rep walked down the Cold Vacuum Drying Facility and K-West Basin to observe testing progress. The facility representative noted several problems that have been encountered recently: pumps running backwards or having flows not meeting specifications, controls that produce the opposite effect (e.g., open and closed functions reversed), a manipulator camera pointed in the wrong direction, etc. These types of issues seem to be slowing down the completion of preoperational acceptance tests.

C. Recommendation 95-2: The Site Rep met with the DOE Assistant Manager for Engineering and the Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) program lead to discuss staff concerns with the conduct of the Bechtel Hanford Inc. (BHI) ISMS Phase I/II Verification Review. The Site Rep also met with the BHI President to discuss implementation of ISMS at 233-S and other issues. The verification team recommended that DOE consider the BHI ISMS implemented and approve their ISM system description once it is revised. The team's observations were overwhelmingly positive. The only areas of improvement noted were minor issues associated with the formal professional qualification process, integration at the activity level, feedback system enhancements, and environmental program upgrades. The technical staff will be reviewing the justifications for the review team's conclusions in detail because of technical staff and outside expert concerns with the thoroughness of the review.

D. 224-T: All funding for characterization of the 224-T process cells has been cut until 2003. However, characterization might be performed sooner if a proposal to store pipe overpack containers from PFP in 224-T is approved. (3-B).

cc: Board members