

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD**

December 30, 1998

**TO:** G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director  
**FROM:** R. Arcaro, & D. G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representatives  
**SUBJ:** Activity Report for the Week Ending January 1, 1999

Mr. Arcaro was on leave during the week. Mr. Ogg was on leave December 31.

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): The DOE-HQ Operational Readiness Review (ORR) team issued its final report on December 24, 1998. The report contains no major changes from the draft and includes 15 pre-start findings, six post-start findings, and two observations.

B&W Hanford Co. (BWHC) continues to close pre-start findings from the ORR. Of the ten contractor pre-starts, BWHC has closed four and expects the remaining six to be finished next week. DOE-RL also expects to complete actions on their five pre-start findings next week. DOE-RL line management will validate closure of the contractor's findings, and the DOE-RL Performance Assurance Division will validate closure of the findings pertaining to DOE-RL line management. After validation is complete, DOE-RL will authorize start-up of thermal stabilization operations - expected during the week of January 11.

B. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): In early December, SNFP management assigned a new project manager to help resolve the long-standing and unresolved issue of a potential leakage path through K Basin drain valves. Some progress is now apparent as SNFP personnel and DOE-RL have informally agreed to a plan for resolution. The plan includes installation of impact limiters above 12-inch drain valves, maintaining exclusion zones above 4-inch drain valves, upgrading, to "safety-class," some equipment in the south load out pit, and finally, grouting and leak-testing the common header downstream of the drain valves. This work will be accompanied by appropriately updated safety documentation. According to the new project manager, this drain valve work will have a small budget impact and no schedule impact.

cc: Board members