

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 4, 1999

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: R. Arcaro, D. G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representatives

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending June 4, 1999

Staff members R. Tontodonato, T. Hunt and M. Sautman visited the site this week to review Plutonium Finishing Plant activities.

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): R. Arcaro and M. Sautman, met with Art Clark, the B&W Hanford Company President and Pete Knollmeyer, the DOE-RL Assistant Manager for Facilities Transition. The current Integrated Project Management Plan at PFP has room for potentially significant acceleration. The Board's staff reiterated the need to seek innovative ways to accelerate stabilization activities ahead of the commitments in the current plan. Both Mr. Clark and Mr. Knollmeyer acknowledged this need and were supportive. For example, it was evident that more serious consideration is being given to packaging and storing all of PFP's stabilized material in 3013-compliant containers. Additionally, the staff was informed that plans to accelerate the start-up of the three additional muffle furnaces and the cementation line were being developed. (III.A.1)

B. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): Fluor Daniel Hanford announced the appointment of Raymond G. Jones as the new Vice President, Spent Nuclear Fuel Project. Mr. Jones' most recent assignment was Senior Project Director for Fluor Daniel on the Yucca Mountain Project. Previously, he retired from the Navy as a Rear Admiral with experience as a Submarine Commander, head of the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board, and Chief of Naval Education and Training.

At KW Basin, project personnel continued to investigate the extent of the bad welds in Integrated Water Treatment System piping (both installed and staged for installation). Repair and other corrective action will significantly jeopardize the project's ability to meet the Tri-Party Agreement milestone for installation of the KW IWTS by the end of June. Additionally, the Fuel Retrieval System vendor, Westinghouse, completed a re-test of new bearing material for the Primary Cleaning Machine, but the bearings failed again. Further redesign will be necessary. (I.A.3)

C. Hanford Advisory Board Meeting: The site representatives attended a meeting of the Hanford Advisory Board in Spokane, Washington and provided comments from the perspective of the DNFSB on the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project and the Plutonium Finishing Plant. Copies of recent DNFSB correspondence on the topics were provided. The major theme of the Hanford Advisory Board members' comments, consistent with the site representatives' comments, was that clean up must progress expeditiously — that DOE needs to “get on with it.” The meeting was a good opportunity for the site representatives to interact with the public and it is expected that these meeting will continue in the future. (III.A.2)

cc: Board members