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DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 2, 1999

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

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

SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending July 2, 1999

Staff member Steven Stokes was on site this week reviewing Tank 101-SY.

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): B&W Hanford Company (BWHC) declared readiness to operate the prototype vertical denitration calciner late the evening of July 1, 1999. Mr. Arcaro reviewed the readiness affidavits for this process and found no significant shortcomings. Following the holiday weekend, BWHC expects to begin equipment checkouts followed by a few weeks of running only non-plutonium-bearing acids through the calciner. (These activities still required readiness verification because plutonium oxide from previous runs remains in the calciner.) (III-A.1.a.)

B. Tank 101-SY Level Growth: A significant amount of equipment required for the transfer of waste out of tank 101-SY is on site and is awaiting installation. Mr. Arcaro, along with Mr. Stokes, toured the equipment lay down areas. The project is currently slightly ahead of schedule to begin transfer operations in the fall. (III-A.2)

C. SNFP: On June 23, DOE-RL signed the Official Acceptance of Construction for the Integrated Water Treatment System. This completes a major Tri-Party Agreement milestone that was due on June 30, 1999. Several items remained outstanding as "punchlist items" for the system. These must be completed before pre-operational acceptance testing, due in mid-July.

SNFP project personnel also briefed DOE-RL and EPA officials on the path forward for design of the new cask load out system. They will make a change to the design to integrate the operator platform above the load out pit and to further mitigate the consequences of a non-concentric cask drop. The immersion pail support structure will no longer rest on the floor of the load out pit, but will now be suspended by a structure mounted to the deck of the load out bay. This change will cause a delay to design activities, but project personnel expect that fabrication and installation will be easier and quicker. (I-A.3)

D. Facility Representatives: The DOE-RL and the Office of River Protection Managers addressed the combined group of DOE facility representatives. The senior managers expressed their support for the facility representative program and their career development. The managers also committed to addressing problems associated with past complaints that the facility representatives' issues are not consistently taken up by senior DOE management. (I-B.1)

cc: Board members