

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 16, 1999

**TO:** G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

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

**SUBJ:** Activity Report for the Week Ending July 16, 1999

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): On July 9, the Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) authorized the thermal stabilization of organic-bearing sludges in the PFP muffle furnaces. This is the first feed type authorized since the initial authorization to stabilize high purity plutonium oxides in January 1999. After a series of fits and starts related to procedural changes, actual stabilization of organic-bearing sludges began on July 15 and is expected to continue for two to three weeks.

The prototype calciner continues to go through equipment check-outs and preparations for cold runs. Current projections are that stabilization of plutonium-bearing solutions will not occur until mid to late August.

As previously reported, B&W Hanford Company (BWHC) studied alternatives that would allow storage of containers compliant with DOE-STD-3013-96 in the PFP vaults. BWHC will propose modular vault modifications. The site representatives will continue to review this project as the design for these modifications becomes more detailed. (III-A.1.a.)

B. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): This week, SNFP management discovered that the new Cask Loadout System (CLS) design may require that the shuttle and gantry installation work be delayed until the old CLS immersion pail support structure is removed. This will further challenge the schedule. On July 13, KW Basin workers installed the first Fuel Retrieval System (FRS) manipulator, but the overall FRS installation deadline of July 30, 1999 will likely be missed due to the redesign effort on the primary cleaning machine bearings. (I-A.3.a., III-A.3.)

C. Hanford Site Manager Initiatives: On July 15, the Site Representatives attended a Hanford Advisory Board meeting and an all-hands meeting, both addressed by the DOE-RL Site Manager, Keith Klein. Mr. Klein announced several initiatives of direct relevance to Board activities. Primary among the initiatives were intentions to test SNFP equipment and move a nominal amount of fuel by the end of the calendar year rather than November 2000 as currently planned. Additionally, acceleration of plutonium stabilization by early installation of additional muffle furnaces and early stabilization of polycubes is intended. Mr. Klein intends to streamline both his and Fluor Daniel Hanford's organizations to free up the necessary funds to achieve this acceleration.

D. Site Representative Transition: This is the last full week of work at the Hanford site for Mr. Ogg. He will begin traveling back to the Board's Washington, D.C. offices next week. Mr. Arcaro will be the point of contact for all Hanford issues until Mark Sautman reports for duty in September.

cc: Board members