

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 16, 1998

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: P.F. Gubanc & D.G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representatives

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending January 16, 1998

A. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): On January 6, Duke Engineering & Services Hanford (DESH), announced organizational changes to address project management concerns. The DESH President and new Vice President are adding new talent in the areas of Project Management, Procurement, Training & Support Services, and Engineering (which includes safety analyses). On January 21, DESH is to provide, to Fluor Daniel Hanford (FDH), a comprehensive recovery plan that addresses concerns raised in DNFSB/TECH-17 and other recent assessments of the SNFP.

On January 9, Mr. Ogg toured the Canister Storage Building. Mowat, the constructor, continues to make good progress. Currently MOWAT is finishing systems installation, and is approximately 50% complete with base plate installation for the storage tubes in vault #1.

On January 20-30, DOE-RL will conduct their "Phase 1" verification of ISMS implementation at K-Basins. The Site Representatives and DNFSB-HQ staff will observe this review.

B. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): On January 8, B&W Hanford Company (BWHC) submitted its response to Dr. McKamy's (EH-34) December 23, 1997, report regarding criticality safety practices at PFP. Of the four "near-term" actions recommended for the contractor, BWHC agreed to adopt two pre-start and two post-start. DOE-RL's response is expected on January 16, and pending resolution of comments, may agree with resuming the DOE Phase 1 Readiness Assessment as early as January 26.

C. Tank Waste Remediation System (TWRS): On January 12, FDH submitted to DOE-RL its "Readiness to Proceed" declaration for TWRS privatization (i.e., the TWRS operating contractor will be able to deliver feed to the privatization contractors by June 2002). As expected, the declaration is dependent on the following:

1. DOE-RL approval by January 31 to defer "non-critical path workscope" and redirect funds to "critical path workscope." Exactly what changes are necessary are discussed in separate documentation which we have not yet been able to obtain.
2. Additional funding in FY99 and beyond. For FY99, the stated need is \$350M (which compares with \$308M for TWRS in FY98). This will certainly exacerbate the already fierce competition for funding amongst TWRS, SNFP and PFP (all of whom have already slid or missed DNFSB Implementation Plan commitments for budgetary reasons).

cc: Board members