

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 23, 1998

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

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

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending January 23, 1998

Ralph Arcaro, Ray Daniels and Don Wille were on site during the week to attend the TWRS expert panel elicitation workshop and the Phase 1 ISMS verification for the Spent Nuclear Fuel Project.

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): By January 26, B&W Hanford Company (BWHC) expects to formally resolve DOE-RL and Fluor Daniel Hanford (FDH) comments on PFP's actions in response to Dr. McKamy's criticality safety review. Assuming a satisfactory resolution, the DOE-RL Readiness Assessment (RA) would be expected to start on or about February 2.

On January 22, notices were issued to reduce the PFP staff by ~50 (PFP's new staff total will be about 400). Also, PFP's FY98 budget has settled in at about \$89M; \$25M less than what had been planned on. The net result is that PFP's 94-1 milestones are already in extremis and expected to slip more (e.g., completion of Pu solution stabilization, due January 1999, is expected to slip at least 1-2 years). With higher priority being placed on the spent fuel and TWRS programs, and the environmental restoration program being "fenced", prospects for this situation to improve are slim.

B. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): On January 20, DOE-RL began its Phase 1 Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) verification. The team started its review with DOE-RL personnel only. Mr. Morrow (EH-34), who has ISMS verification experience, will join the team Monday afternoon, January 26. The review is to be complete and a draft report written by January 30. Jan Preston and Doug Volgenau will observe the review next week.

The Cold Vacuum Drying (CVD) facility sub-project, which is on the overall SNFP critical path, is at risk of a delay. The CVD final design review and approval, which was due on January 12, has not been completed. After January 27, if no recovery is identified, the project will experience a day-for-day schedule slip until the design is approved.

C. Passdown of Requirements: Over the next six months, FDH expects to revise roughly 500 site-level procedures and formally "pass them down" to their subcontractors. Unfortunately, we understand that FDH is not tasking its subcontractors to formally communicate their schedule and ability to comply with these new procedures. We are discussing with DOE-RL and FDH their need to formally communicate and document implementation needs and commitments.

D. Configuration Management (CM): In response to demonstrated problems with CM at Hanford, DOE-RL has posted a GS-13 CM billet. While a positive step, a GS-13 will have difficulty attracting the necessary skills and compelling the DOE-RL organization to respond to CM issues.

cc: Board members