

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 19, 1998

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: D. G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representative

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending June 19, 1998

Ralph Arcaro was on site all week assisting with Site Representative duties.

A. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): On June 15, DOE-RL issued a letter to DOE-HQ transmitting a proposed change to the 94-1 Implementation Plan (IP) milestones for the SNFP. The milestone dates are consistent with the schedule presented by DOE-RL in April, and reflect removal of the first spent fuel from KW Basin in January 2001. Although Fluor Daniel Hanford (FDH) is now managing the project to the new schedule, a few significant, outstanding issues remain:

1. The new schedule reflects a potential budget shortfall in FY99 and FY00 of \$47.4M.
2. DOE-RL has not yet formally approved the new schedule.
3. DOE-RL has been unable to reach agreement with the EPA regarding the schedule.
4. DOE-RL is not satisfied with the contractor's cost estimates and justification for the schedule change, and plans to conduct a detailed review of each sub-project.

B. Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) Verification at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL): A DOE review team led by Emil Morrow completed its two-week Phase I and II verification of ISMS at PNNL. The review team expressed great satisfaction with the status of ISMS at PNNL, but had three areas of concern: 1) the authorization agreement requires significant rework to meet DOE guidance; 2) ISM within the maintenance program is not as formal as in operations; and 3) the USQ process is not performed in accordance with DOE standards. An additional area of needed improvement was the inconsistent application of hazards analyses at the activity level.

C. Dropped Drill String During Tank Farms Sampling: On June 18, approximately 28 feet of drill string (the hollow tube made up of 5-foot sections through which the sampler is inserted into the waste) was dropped into Tank SX-102 during preparation for waste sampling. Two devices intended to lock the drill string in place failed. First, the drill string apparently slipped through a jaw-type locking collar. A strap wrench, intended to provide back-up to the locking collar, likewise allowed the drill string to slip. Additional review of this event will be conducted to determine the necessary actions to recover the drill string and the implications on the Tank Farms Authorization Basis.

D. Annual Emergency Exercise: On June 18, DOE-RL conducted its annual emergency exercise. The scenario involved a fire in the KE Basin that resulted in several contaminated, injured personnel, collapse of the KE Basin roof, and the declaration of a General Site Emergency. The drill evaluators, from DOE-HQ, noted no major deficiencies, but preliminary findings indicated improvement was needed in exercise control, control of the contaminated zone, and consistency of press releases.

cc: Board members