

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 14, 1998

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director
FROM: D. G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representative
SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending August 14, 1998

Staff member Don Wille was on site assisting with site representative duties.

A. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): On August 8, DOE-RL issued final comments on the Cold Vacuum Drying Facility Phase II Safety Analysis Report (SAR) that covers systems design. DOE-RL requested comment resolution by August 19. Of 493 final comments, 47 require resolution prior to approval of the SAR, and 11 of these represent a schedule risk due to the potential effort required for resolution. Intensive resolution meetings between the contractor and DOE-RL SAR reviewers are in progress with the goal of issuance of a safety evaluation report in early September 1998. Additional management attention by DOE-RL and the contractors will be necessary to streamline this process and reduce the number of review comments on SARs due at the beginning of next year.

B. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) Safety Analysis Report (SAR): Babcock and Wilcox Hanford Company is currently operating the PFP using SAR, Rev. 0J which was approved in 1995. In 1997 BWHC submitted SAR, Rev. 1, and in October 1997, DOE-RL issued its Safety Evaluation Report (SER) approving Rev. 1 with restrictions. DOE-RL directed BWHC to correct the conditions causing the restrictions within 60 days. In June 1998, DOE-RL discovered that BWHC had not complied with the direction given in the SER and was still using SAR Rev. 0J.

For the last several weeks, senior managers from BWHC, Flour Daniel Hanford (FDH) and DOE-RL have been meeting to try to resolve this problem in time for the plant to declare readiness to operate (for Phase II: Pu stabilization operations). Additional, serious questions to be answered include why PFP management chose to disregard DOE-RL direction, and how DOE-RL line management failed to notice this problem earlier.

C. W-320 Project (C-106 Sluicing) Readiness to Proceed: Lockheed Martin Hanford Company (LMHC) expects to issue its Readiness to Proceed memorandum to DOE-RL today (August 14) for start-up of Project W-320. DOE-RL will then review the status of outstanding prestart items and corrective action plans through next week. If satisfied with LMHC actions, DOE-RL will start its Operational Readiness Review on August 24. The Board's staff plans to observe the DOE-RL ORR.

D. 233-S Facility D&D: On August 13, Mr. Ogg toured the 233-S facility with the DOE-RL Project Manager and Bechtel Hanford Inc. (BHI) personnel. BHI continues to make progress with decommissioning activities and plans to begin intrusive work into the 233-S pipe trench later in August. The 233-S long term schedule now shows a DOE-RL Readiness Assessment prior to work in the process hood - a recommendation of the DOE-RL ORR team and the Board's staff.

cc: Board members