

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 4, 1998

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: D. G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representative

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending September 4, 1998

Staff member Larry Zull was on site observing the DOE Operational Readiness Review (ORR) for Tank C-106 sluicing.

A. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): DOE-RL management reported this week that they had reached agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency, Region X on the SNFP schedule and corresponding Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) milestone dates. The TPA change package must be approved by all parties, and presented for public comment before it becomes final. While DOE-RL management expects this may take until January, they hope to approve a new Level III schedule for the project by the end of November.

This week, Mowat, the constructor for the Canister Storage Building, completed erection of the vault ventilation intake structure and exhaust stack.

B. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) Safety Basis: On September 1, Fluor Daniel Hanford (FDH) forwarded a letter to DOE-RL that explains the contractor's position on the PFP Safety Analysis Report (SAR). Although DOE-RL had approved the PFP SAR Revision 1 on October 21, 1997 and issued a Safety Evaluation Report (SER), the contractor did not implement the revision. Instead they continued to operate under the previously approved SAR (Rev. 0-J) amended by the Unreviewed Safety Question (USQ) process. The contractor's current suggestion is to continue to use Rev. 0-J of the SAR with the addition of some necessary changes using Engineering Change Notices and USQs. Staff members Stokes and Moyle will meet with DOE-RL and PFP management next week to discuss this and other issues.

C. Tank C-106 Sluicing ORR: This week, DOE-RL completed its ORR for Project W-320, Tank C-106 Sluicing. The ORR team recommended project start-up pending the closure of 12 pre-start findings. The team also documented 12 post-start findings and 11 observations. The Board's staff believes that the ORR process was improved, and benefited greatly from the inclusion of independent, off-site DOE personnel. However, as with the 233-S ORR, several recurrent deficiencies were noted including a poor management self-assessment program. The recurrent nature of these findings again highlights the lack of effective corrective action on site.

D. Fluor Daniel Hanford Management: On September 3, FDH announced the selection of Mr. Ron Hanson as the President and CEO of FDH, a position he had filled in an acting capacity since June 30. Mr. Hanson has more than 25 years of experience in the DOE complex including several years at the Albuquerque Operations Office. FDH also announced that Mr. Dave Van Leuven had been selected as Executive Vice President, and that Mr. Ed Penn had been promoted to Vice President of Operations.

cc: Board members