

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 30, 1998

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: D. G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representative

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending October 30, 1998

Staff member R. Arcaro was on site all week assisting with Site Representative duties. Staff members R. Kasdorf and D. Moyle were on site Tuesday through Thursday reviewing PFP.

A. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): Several difficulties related to safety classification of equipment and demonstration of compliance with DOE Orders continue to delay the procurement of Cold Vacuum Drying (CVD) equipment and approval of the CVD Phase II Safety Analysis Report (SAR). DOE-RL and SNFP personnel continue to work together to streamline the procurement and safety documentation approval processes.

B. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): On October 30, DOE-RL approved the PFP Authorization Basis and issued its Safety Evaluation Report. B&W Hanford Co. (BWHC) continues to correct pre-start items from the management self assessment and complete prerequisites for the contractor Operational Readiness Review (ORR). BWHC expects to declare readiness for thermal stabilization operations early next week, and Fluor Daniel Hanford Co. (FDH) will begin its ORR immediately thereafter. Board outside expert, David Boyd, will be on site to observe the ORR.

Additionally, DOE-RL will conduct a concurrent line management validation of readiness at PFP, and Mr. David Huizenga (EM-60) will have a small team on site assessing Recommendation 94-1 progress at PFP.

C. Tank C-106 Sluicing: On October 27, Lockheed Martin Hanford Co. (LMHC) operators conducted a pre-job brief and began the procedure for sluicing Tank C-106 and ultimately transferring its high-heat waste to Tank AY-102. However, during electrical and valve line-ups, operators experienced several small procedural and equipment problems. After resuming the start-up procedure, operators tried to run the C-106 waste transfer pump, but found that there was no indication of flow. A visual examination of the pump using the in-tank camera showed waste sludge blocking the pump suction. On Thursday swing shift, operators flushed the pump, and now expect to resume the sluicing procedure on Monday, November 2.

D. Meeting with FDH Management: On October 26, Messrs. Ogg and Arcaro met with the FDH President and other senior management for introductions and discussions of site priorities. FDH senior management stated their commitment to ensuring the success of the SNFP, PFP and TWRS and have given priority to making improvements in quality assurance and in corrective action tracking and management.

cc: Board members