

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 6, 1998

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: D. G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representative

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending November 6, 1998

Outside expert Dave Boyd was on site all week observing the contractor Operational Readiness Review at the Plutonium Finishing Plant.

A. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): During a meeting of the Hanford Advisory Board, DOE-RL presented new budget estimates for the SNFP. The Total Project Cost that corresponds to the new "TPA Schedule" is now \$1.586 billion. This represents a significant increase over the budget of \$1.4 billion presented to the Congress last spring, but it does include additional work scope not included in the earlier estimate (primarily deactivation activities). DOE-RL has not yet approved the Baseline Change Request that would formalize this schedule and budget, but expects to do so soon.

On November 6, the site representative toured the Canister Storage Building (CSB) with the DOE-RL CSB project manager. MCO Handling Machine (MHM) installation is largely complete except for electrical systems. Vault one MCO storage tubes will be delivered on site and installation started in December. Most other facility systems are complete.

B. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): On November 2, B&W Hanford Co. (BWHC) declared readiness to operate the thermal stabilization furnace at PFP. That afternoon the Fluor Daniel Hanford (FDH) Operational Readiness Review (ORR) began. Outside expert Dave Boyd is providing full-time coverage of the ORR for the Board. Concurrently, DOE-RL is conducting a line management validation of readiness by providing DOE-RL "shadows" for the ORR team members. As of Friday morning, the ORR team had identified and was pursuing several potential issues. Pre-start and post-start findings will not be identified until the weekend.

On November 5, during the swing shift, operators demonstrated thermal stabilization operations using non-radioactive material (usually magnesium oxide). Operators moved a "boat" of stabilized material from the furnace to the HC-2 conveyor and then down to a storage glovebox (HC-18BS). While the boat was outside the glovebox, on the conveyor, all of the contents of the boat were blown out, apparently by excessive air flow, and lost. Plant personnel are investigating.

C. Tank C-106 Sluicing: During the week, Lockheed Martin Hanford Co. (LMHC) continued troubleshooting the C-106 slurry transfer pump. Operators successfully flushed the pump, but subsequent efforts to pump waste were unsuccessful. Additional troubleshooting continues to investigate the possibility of a vapor lock on the pump or other causes.

cc: Board members