

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 17, 2010

TO: T. J. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: M. T. Sautman and D. L. Burnfield, Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Weekly Report for Week Ending September 17, 2010

H-Canyon: SRNS completed their Facility Self Assessment for spent fuel dissolving/3009 Documented Safety Analysis implementation. The Readiness Assessment is expected to commence this weekend.

Defense Waste Processing Facility: SRR completed installing four bubblers into the melter, which is expected to increase production.

F-Tank Farms: SRR has been planning to use a robotic crawler to remove some of the remaining mounds of solids in Tank 5. Recent sample results indicated less uranium than expected. In light of the expected worker dose to conduct the Mound Obliteration Process and the estimated risk benefit, SRR is reevaluating the need to conduct this activity.

Saltstone: A URS corporate independent review began looking at the design of the saltstone grouting process and recent operational issues. SRR does not plan to resume operations until this review is completed in mid-October.

Safety Basis: DOE-SR previously directed SRR to not implement a proposed chemical screening methodology for DOE-STD-1189. DOE-SR has submitted the proposed SRR methodology to EM-1 and HS-1 to see if it meets the intent of DOE-STD-1189. If not, then DOE-SR requested a detailed definition and methodology for the chemical screening criteria given in 1189 Appendix B.

DOE-SR directed SRNS and SRR to develop a detailed plan for developing and institutionalizing improvements to the site's processes for handling non-safety class/safety significant controls (e.g., defense-in-depth or facility controls).

P-Area Reactor: SRNS terminated evaporation of the disassembly basin water when radiation levels increased to approximately 4 mrem/hour. The evaporators had evaporated approximately 3.9 of the 4.2 million gallons previously in the basin. DOE and SRNS consider the radiation levels were increasing because the water was picking up particulate matter as it neared the basin floor. SRNS is preparing to grout the basin floor.

Emergency Preparedness: Following a major thunderstorm in late July, DOE and SRNS emergency preparedness personnel reviewed the actions of the Emergency Duty Officer (EDO). (See 8/6/10report). The site rep met with these personnel to discuss the results of their review. At the original fact-finding meeting, it was reported that the EDO had not always properly prioritized their actions. As a part of this review, it was determined that despite the multiple activities that resulted in a hectic several hours, the EDO had in fact completed all of their required responsibilities in a manner consistent with the activities that were occurring.