

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 13, 2012

**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 April 13, 2012

Board Staff member Herbert Massie and outside expert William Yeniscavich were on site this week reviewing the welding program at the Salt Waste Processing Facility. No significant deficiencies in the welding program were observed.

**H-Canyon:** SRNS conducted their Readiness Assessment (RA) for Transuranic Waste Repackaging Phase II Stage II. This RA mostly focused on new administrative controls for handling and transporting containers with higher plutonium-239 equivalent curies contents. The site rep observed several interviews and other RA activities.

The site rep also observed a crane operator puncture the lids of two drums containing sand previously recovered from a hot canyon decanter. A 925-lb. drum puncture tool was slowly lowered by a crane on top of the drum until a spike on the tool's bottom punctured the drum lid.

**Savannah River National Laboratory:** The site reps met with DOE and SRNS to discuss their implementation of the Explosives Control Program. This program currently limits the amount of explosive material to 1 gram TNT-equivalent and limits the radionuclide inventory in contact with explosive material. DOE and SRNS are currently analyzing the hazards of thin films of explosives that may exceed 1 gram TNT-equivalent, which may lead to a revision of their authorization basis. In any case, SRNL completes a hazard analysis package based on the results of radiological surveys, radiography or radioassays, and other characterization data. The receipt is also subject to the unreviewed safety question determination process.

**H-Tank Farm:** The replacement of the packings in the tank 51 telescoping transfer jet (TTJ) is expected to result in significant doses to the extremities of any workers who perform the task. SRR has estimated that these doses may be as high as 25 rem to the hands. (The DOE limit is 50 rem per year.) The site rep observed the TTJ to be used for the mock-up for the tank 51 packing replacement. The mock-up is scheduled to be erected this weekend and performed next week. (See the 4/6/2012 report.)

**L-Area:** The site rep observed the oral board for a first line manager in L-Area. The board was conducted professionally and determined that the first line manager had performed satisfactorily. The board as well as the site rep noted minor weaknesses in radiological control fundamentals.