

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 14, 2012

**TO:** T. J. Dwyer, Technical Director  
**FROM:** W. Linzau and R. Quirk, Hanford Site Representatives  
**SUBJECT:** Hanford Activity Report for the Week Ending September 14, 2012

Sludge Treatment Project (STP): The project processed the last multi-canister overpack (MCO) containing knock-out pot sludge at the Cold Vacuum Drying Facility (CVDF) this week and shipped it to the Canister Storage Building for interim storage. This was the last MCO that will be treated at CVDF. The contractor is developing plans for stepping out of the requirements in the CVDF DSA and TSR.

Waste Treatment Plant (WTP): The Office of River Protection divisions involved in WTP contractor oversight will conduct assessments to determine why the contractor is not self-identifying the issues DOE oversight is finding. In addition, the effectiveness of the contractor's corrective action program will be evaluated. The results of this initiative will be discussed at the next quarterly assessment program review meeting.

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): The contractor's Nuclear Safety and Performance Evaluation Board (NSPEB) completed its review at PFP this week and noted significant progress since detailed reviews of the radiological control program and operations by the contractor and Richland Operations Office last year. The NSPEB team identified minor discrepancies in some administrative processes and practices used to maintain and comply with the safety basis requirements for fire protection, but none were significant. The NSPEB team also noted several instances where the personal protective equipment worn for some lower hazard work were inadequate as well as a number of weaknesses with the control of radiological test sources. However, the NSPEB team leader noted that the senior PFP management expectations for performing work safely have taken root with managers, supervisors, and workers, and this has resulted in an improved safety posture.

The contractor restored the Plutonium Reclamation Facility (PRF) canyon bridge crane to service after making repairs to its festoon cable truck (trolley) and restarted size-reducing the PRF pencil tanks. The contractor noted on June 26, 2012, that the cable festoon truck that was replaced last year had come off its track. They replaced the truck with one that has a more robust design as well as added a strain release cable that should minimize the stress on the aging electrical cable.

River Corridor Closure Contract: The contractor initiated corrective actions to address weaknesses in the conduct and discipline of operations noted during recent work activities. Three of the work activity weaknesses noted last month were associated with excavations near underground utilities and hazardous energy control (see Activity Reports 8/24/12). The project implemented immediate actions for each of these and has long-term improvement actions ongoing, which include: a project-wide conduct of operations assessment using personnel from the corporate offices; project-wide implementation of daily senior supervisory watches; the implementation of a conduct of operations pilot program in which senior managers for specific work areas are exchanged for a week to allow a "new eyes" type of evaluation; and the project has reinstated a lock-out/tag-out committee to assist in the application of the site-wide standard. The site rep observed some of the training for the supervisors on human performance tools that can be used to "break the chain" in a sequence of risky behaviors that lead to events.