

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 31, 2000

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director

FROM: M. Sautman and S. Stokes, Hanford Site Representative

SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending March 31, 2000

A. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project Baseline Change Request: The site representatives met with Senior Fluor Hanford management and the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office Manager to discuss Board concerns regarding the Spent Nuclear Fuel Projects baseline change request. The site representatives expressed the Board's concerns regarding further delays in removing K-East Basin fuel and the need to address, in an appropriate and timely fashion, modification of commitments in the existing Recommendation 94-1 implementation plan. The baseline change request remains under evaluation by senior Department of Energy management and will likely remain unsigned until after review by the Deputy Secretary on or about April 4, 2000. (1-C)

B. Department of Energy Office of River Protection (DOE-ORP) Re-organization: DOE-ORP announced a new organizational structure this week. The DOE-ORP management is lead by Mr. Richard French and on the technical side, he is supported by a Deputy Manager for Technical Integration (vacant), Assistant Manger for Operations (vacant), Program Office (vacant), Assistant Manager for Environment, Safety and Health and Quality (vacant), and Assistant Manager for Systems Acquisition, L. Erickson. Mr. French is also supported by three senior technical advisors, S. Wiegman, J. Bevelacque, and D. Wodrich. (1-B)

C. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): Approximately 40% of the plutonium metal inventory has been weighed. To date, 9 additional items have been identified with weight gains greater than 5 grams. Historical review indicates that there may be second item with a 41 g weight gain. Radiography of suspect cans began this week. PFP management has also decided that suspect cans will now be opened inside the main PFP building rather than in the vault building. This would allow any reactive plutonium compounds remaining after recanning or brushing to be transferred to a furnace without having to transport the plutonium between buildings. This may, however, delay the start of recanning operations. The 3 new furnaces are now operating. (1-C)

cc: Board members