

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 19, 1997

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: P.F. Gubanc & D.G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representatives

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending September 19, 1997

Mr. Krahn and staff members Arcaro and Blackman were on site this week to review TWRS programs, site construction/configuration management and WESF structural matters.

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) Activities:

- 1. DNFSB Letter:** The Board's September 17 letter regarding PFP was received at DOE-RL on September 18. As of the close of business Friday, DOE-RL has provided no indication of how they intend to respond to the requested 14 day report or the upcoming Board visit.
- 2. FY98 Budget:** While touring Mr. Krahn through PFP on September 16, DOE-RL and B&W Hanford (BWHC) identified that expected FY98 funding was not sufficient to complete installation and operation of the vertical calciner. To date, DOE has not yet formally reported that budgetary restrictions threaten the completion of PFP's Recom. 94-1 milestones.
- 3. Management Changes:** This week, BWHC replaced both the PFP ES&H manager and the Radiological Controls manager at PFP.
- 4. Fluor Daniel Hanford (FDH) "Show Cause" Letter:** This week, FDH formally informed BWHC that it would be retained as the PFP operating contractor. We are requesting this correspondence and will forward it when provided.
- 5. Legal Penalty:** This week, the Washington State Department of Ecology announced that their review of the May 14 explosion at PFP revealed seven legal violations of state regulations and that they were assessing a \$110,000 fine against DOE-RL and its contractors.

B. Spent Nuclear Fuel Project (SNFP): In cooperation with the DNFSB Headquarters staff, Mr. Ogg continues to conduct a detailed comprehensive review of the SNFP schedule. Continuation of this effort is planned in support of the Board's September 24 Hanford visit.

C. TWRS Authorization Basis: On September 12, DOE-RL approved the contractor's transition from the TWRS Interim Safety Basis (ISB) to the Basis for Interim Operation (BIO) on September 29. In preparation for this transition, Lockheed Martin (LMHC) has trained over 1000 personnel on the new BIO, its controls and use (3-4 hour class). At our suggestion, the DOE-RL TWRS staff is also attending this training. We also attended this training on September 19 and found it to be well prepared and informative summary-level training. (Additional detailed training is provided to shift management personnel responsible for day-to-day operations.)

cc: Board Members