

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 9, 2006

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: R. Quirk and W. Linzau, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending June 9, 2006

Plutonium Finishing Plant: A standard waste box (SWB) containing unirradiated vibration-packed mixed oxide fuel slipped off a forklift while it was being moved to a staging area. The SWB rolled onto its side but was not breached. Appropriate actions were taken, including requiring all personnel in the 200 West area to take cover as a precautionary measure. A special lifting device that is designed to prevent drops was not used for this transfer. The SWBs at PFP are placed on metal pallets and are allowed to be moved without being fastened to the pallet. The Waste Receiving and Processing Complex requires the SWBs to be strapped to the pallet before moving. Some workers reported that there were instances when the SWBs bounced and started to slide during prior moves but this was not known to management. Potential corrective actions discussed during the critique included an evaluation of the transport process and the event response.

The site rep reviewed the preparations for demolishing the 232-Z building (former incinerator building) with the fac rep. Decontamination has been underway for several years and the remaining plutonium hold-up in the facility is less than 0.5 grams. The underground duct to the facility stack has been filled with grout. Protective barriers made from sheets of stainless steel have been erected to protect safety-related equipment for a nearby facility. Three continuous air monitors will be used to notify workers of any airborne contamination problems during the demolition. The demolition of the scrubber cell is expected to start and finish this weekend.

The project notified the Richland Field Office that a criticality accident was no longer credible in building 241-Z (see site rep activity report 5/26/2006).

Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP): An Office of River Protection (ORP) review of proposed controls for hydrogen in pipes and ancillary vessels (HPAV) commenced this week. This review team is focusing on active systems being designed to control the accumulation of hydrogen in WTP components. The site rep attended a meeting between the review team and the contractor in which questions from this week's review were discussed. The review will continue through next week.

Redpath Geophysics commenced acquiring geophysical logging data at two existing boreholes on-site. No problems with data acquisition have been reported. The site rep observed preparations for the drilling of the entry holes on the WTP construction site. The construction site drilling is scheduled to start early next week.

Bill Elkins has been named the new project director, replacing Jim Henschel. Elkins joined the project early this year and his previous experience includes 14 years at Bechtel Savannah River.