

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 13, 1998

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: D. G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representative

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending November 13, 1998

Outside expert Dave Boyd was on site Monday through Wednesday observing the contractor Operational Readiness Review at the Plutonium Finishing Plant.

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): On November 11, the Fluor Daniel Hanford (FDH) Operational Readiness Review (ORR) team completed their review of PFP Phase II readiness and held an exit briefing. The team presented 12 pre-start findings (the preliminary report also lists nine post-start findings and 12 observations). The team recommended that B&W Hanford Co. (BWHC) not proceed with the DOE ORR until all pre-start findings are closed. Additionally, the team recommended that all pre-start finding closures be validated by an FDH ORR team member. The team expects to issue its final report next week. DOE-RL representatives expressed concurrence with the conclusions of the ORR team. Based on discussions with the team and observations made by Mr. Boyd and Mr. Ogg, the Board's staff also agrees with the findings of the FDH ORR team.

B. Tank C-106 Sluicing: This week, Lockheed Martin Hanford Co. (LMHC) workers successfully started the C-106 slurry transfer pump and received a positive indication of flow. The apparent cause of the blockage was a kink in the hose attached to the outlet of the pump. LMHC operators plan to continue with the tank C-106 sluicing procedure.

C. Tank SY-101 Level Increase: This week, LMHC held a facilitated workshop to discuss options for mitigation of waste level growth in high level waste tank SY-101. At the current growth rate, the crust on top of the liquid tank waste will extend above the vertical walls to the curved (single-shell) dome of the tank by October 1999. On November 12, Mr. Ogg attended the close-out briefing, where the workshop participants made several recommendations:

- 1) Pursue a comprehensive waste transfer and dilution option that would pump 100,000 - 500,000 gallons of waste from SY-101 to SY-102. The team estimates that preparations for this activity could take as long as 10 months.
- 2) Implement an interim crust mitigation plan that would start water jet lancing and/or mechanical lancing of the crust by as early as March 1999.
- 3) Maintain the ongoing close monitoring of the tank and periodic mixer pump operation to prevent any buoyant discharge, gas release events.

cc: Board members