

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 23, 1998

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: R. Arcaro, & D. G. Ogg, Hanford Site Representatives

SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending December 25, 1998

Dan Ogg was on leave this week. Ralph Arcaro was on leave December 24.

A. Initial Training: Mr. Arcaro completed the General Employee Training, Radiological Worker Training, Respiratory Protection Training, and the physical examinations necessary for unescorted access to the facilities at Hanford.

B. Plutonium Finishing Plant: Mr. Arcaro met with B&W and DOE representatives to discuss the revision to DOE's Implementation Plan for Recommendation 94-1. The discussion focused on the commitment to stabilize plutonium-bearing solutions. DOE's proposal had been to complete stabilization of these solutions by June 2002. Mr. Arcaro reviewed the schedule basis for this proposal. Discussion with B&W and DOE revealed that the schedule estimates were preliminary and conservative. Potential acceleration opportunities existed. For example, acceleration could be gained by initiating earlier the investigation into a precipitation process as an alternate means for stabilization. Similarly, acceleration could be gained by reducing the amount of time scheduled for design, construction, and installation of such a process. These opportunities will reportedly be reflected in the next proposed implementation plan revision.

Mr. Arcaro toured the PFP "War Room" where the activities necessary to plan the transition of the PFP to a deactivated state are taking place. The anticipated product from these activities is the Integrated Project Management Plan (IPMP); a fully resource-loaded and integrated schedule for PFP. A significant amount of work has been accomplished to collect the necessary planning information, but significant work remains to be accomplished. The current state of planning is clear on what remains to be done but is still incomplete as to how and when the actions will take place. Several studies are underway to evaluate such things as the viability of the precipitation process and the best location of the polycube pyrolysis units. Workshops concentrating on the various material types, scheduled for January 1999, are expected to develop the necessary schedules. The final IPMP is scheduled to be delivered to DOE by April 9, 1999.

Currently, the term "War Room" is somewhat of a misnomer as there is little information available in the "War Room" that is of immediate use to the project managers and engineers performing the work at PFP. Further, the "War Room" is located in the 300 Area, approximately 25 miles from the PFP. Once the planning information being developed is complete and of immediate value to those executing the plan, moving the "War Room" to PFP would be prudent.

cc: Board members