

Plutonium Finishing Plant Recovery Update

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March 8, 2018

CH1803-03

From: Connie Simiele, Assistant Manager, Plutonium Finishing Plant Recovery

To: CHPRC Employees (please cascade)

Subject: PFP UPDATE: DRAFT ROOT CAUSE EVALUATION REPORT ISSUED

We recently finished the draft root cause evaluation report of the December 2017 spread of contamination at the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP). I want to acknowledge those who provided input and compiled the evaluation. Thank you for your help and participation.

The evaluation incorporates feedback from the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) and from a CH2M/Jacobs Engineering corporate review. The evaluation provides a critical self-assessment of the factors that led to the contamination spread. The report is subject to additional revision to incorporate further feedback from the DOE Expert Panel.

The draft root cause evaluation report will be available at about 3:00 p.m. today on the PFP web page on www.hanford.gov.

The draft root cause analysis identifies several inadequacies that led to the contamination spread, including:

- Methods implemented following earlier contamination spreads were ineffective in controlling contamination.
- PFP management did not recognize early signs indicating a trend of contamination control issues.
- Poor communication existed between workers and management during demolition and after the contamination spread.
- Fixative application was not as effective as planned in trapping contamination.
- Radiological surveys could have been expanded outside of demolition areas.

Corrective actions were also identified, subject to review by the DOE Expert Panel and DOE-RL:

- Analyze samples of the contaminants to support the development of improved controls.

- Improve the techniques and methods to control contamination; train employees on those new methods; incorporate them into work documents.
- Provide lessons learned from the December 2017 event to all radiological control personnel.
- Establish actions and reinforce expectations for notifications and communications.
- Set up routine meetings with employees to solicit feedback and provide updates on priorities and path forward.
- Evaluate and document the effectiveness of fixative application.
- Revise the air dispersion model for remaining scope to complete demolition.
- Establish new radiological boundaries.

Development and implementation of those corrective actions are already underway and will be included as part of CHPRC's proposed approach to resume demolition. The DOE Expert Panel will evaluate CHPRC's proposed approach and provide observations and recommendations to CHPRC and DOE-RL. We will communicate the proposed approach to regulatory agencies, employees, stakeholders and the community after it has been reviewed. CHPRC will not conduct any demolition activities at the PFP without DOE-RL approval.