

HSS Independent Activity Report - Rev. 0**Report Number:** HIAR-RL-2013-04-08**Site:** DOE-Richland Operations Office**Subject:** Office of Enforcement and Oversight's Office of Safety and Emergency Management Evaluations Activity Report for the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office Fire Protection Surveillance**Dates of Activity :** 04/08/2013 – 04/11/2013**Report Preparer:** Jake Wechselberger**Activity Description/Purpose:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Enforcement and Oversight, within the Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS), performed an onsite operational awareness review of a DOE Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) fire protection surveillance.

Result:

During the period April 8-11, 2013, an HSS representative participated in DOE-RL tours of various site facilities to review in situ fire protection and life safety considerations. The HSS representative participated in discussions with CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CHPRC) and DOE-RL personnel during facility tours and separate meetings.

HSS toured the following facilities: the 200 West Groundwater Treatment System, the 100 HX Groundwater Treatment Facility, KW Annex Construction Site, KW Basin, the 100 KW general area including the exterior of the KE Reactor, Cold Vacuum Drying Facility, the 100K Area Water Treatment Building, the KW Reactor Deactivation and Decommissioning side and various warehouse and facility support buildings. HSS also participated in meetings with site and DOE-RL fire protection engineers, including CHPRC Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) and 100K fire protection personnel.

The focus of the DOE-RL surveillance was to evaluate compliance with DOE requirements and standards for fire prevention and mitigation, as well as life safety, in order to ensure that CHPRC had implemented an effective program for minimizing the potential for fires that could threaten the health and safety of the public and/or site workers. The surveillance also included program elements intended to mitigate and reduce potential significant fire losses. With respect to life safety, plant conditions were verified to provide an appropriate level of worker safety during operations.

Some of the preliminary issues identified by the surveillance that will be further verified and resolved by DOE-RL include the following: the piping in a warehouse sprinkler system may be undersized for the specific application and installation; a facility (less than hazard category 3) may not be performing fire protection assessments as often as required; a warehouse has only one personnel exit door (at least two are required); a warehouse building lacks a sprinkler system (which is required, based on the building's value); significant accumulations of tumbleweeds were noted in a number of locations on site; two fire doors were found blocked open with wooden door wedges in the water treatment plant; and the high turnover rate in CHPRC fire protection engineer staff may have an impact on overall program implementation. The PFP Apparent Cause Evaluation was identified as a good practice.

During the surveillance, immediate corrective actions were implemented when identified deficiencies could be corrected without further evaluation and or assessment. DOE-RL plans further review of the preliminary issues and possible additional corrective actions.

HSS will review the DOE-RL surveillance report when published to identify any potential issues for further consideration.

HSS Participants**References**

1 (lead). Jake Wechselberger

Were there any items for HSS follow up? Yes No**HSS Follow Up Items**

1. Review the DOE-RL surveillance report.