

## Update for Dec. 29, 2016



*A recap of events during the past week regarding Hanford's tank vapors*

**From the desk of Mark Lindholm, WRPS President:**

### **AY-102 Waste Retrieval**

Waste retrieval operations in AY-102 continued on Dec. 22 through the afternoon of Dec. 23. Operations did not resume due to sluice pit temperatures dropping below the required threshold to operate the system.

Retrieval operations resumed on the night shift on Dec. 26 and 28 and continued until shut down in preparation for the day-shift.

About 135,100 gallons of sludge has been retrieved from AY-102, approximately 90% of the original sludge volume. The total volume of waste remaining in AY-102 is estimated to be 22,800 gallons, which includes about 3,000 gallons of supernate added during sluicing, compared to the 41,000 gallons of sludge at the start of this retrieval cycle. Retrieval operations are scheduled to resume tonight.

IH monitoring results to date are well below our action limits for ammonia, VOCs and mercury. IH is waiting for results for personal sampling.

Congratulations and thanks to the team for their success and hard work!

### **Web Postings**

WRPS designed a process to test commercial respiratory filter cartridges in actual tank farm conditions. The testing determines the characteristics of air-purifying respirator cartridges using OSHA-approved methods with the results analyzed by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL).

**Seeking timely updates?**

Subscribe at the Hanford Vapors website for notifications as updates occur.

[www.hanfordvapors.com](http://www.hanfordvapors.com)

**Have questions or concerns?**

[Send an email](#)

In addition, an independent third party selected by HAMTC is also reviewing the test approach, methodology and initial test results. The independent review of test results to date is expected in January or February 2017.

The test cartridges are exposed to thousands of chemicals when plumbed directly into the tank-ventilation exhaust stacks. The stacks exhaust air containing chemical vapors from inside the tanks, exposing the cartridges to the highest possible vapor concentrations – many times higher than a tank-farm worker would be exposed to.

[New data sets](#) were added to the web this week detailing the results of those tests.

Plans call for further filter cartridge testing in 2017 to include different cartridges and more severe working conditions, including those where tank waste is being disturbed and creating greater volumes of chemical vapors in the tank head spaces.

#### **News & Notes**

- An [advertisement in the Tri-City Herald](#) thanking tank farm employees for their hard work in 2016 and wishing them a happy holiday season appeared in the Dec. 18 issue of the newspaper.

#### **Opportunities for Employee Engagement**

- The President's Accident Prevention Council meets Wednesday, Jan. 4, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the 2704-HV building, room G-206. Meetings are open to all employees. Please coordinate attendance with your supervisor.

***Mark***