

Hanford Tank Vapors

Vapors Weekly Update
December 7, 2016



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

From the desk of Mark Lindholm, WRPS President:

Last week, [the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\) issued a report](#) on its review of worker health issues associated with tank farm chemical vapors.

The team visited the tank farms in July, conducted interviews with workers, reviewed previous worker safety and health assessments, and looked at current WRPS and Department of Energy (DOE) programs at the site. The report outlines recommendations in four areas: exposure assessment, exposure control, safety and health program management and medical.

In [a letter sent Monday to DOE Secretary Moniz](#), Senators Murray, Cantwell and Wyden requested that DOE use the NIOSH report to “develop an implementation plan which includes a clear schedule and the funding necessary” to successfully carry out the recommendations.

Please know that our highest priority is the safety of our workers and the protection of our environment and the community. The NIOSH review provided valuable feedback that will help us strengthen worker safety in the tank farms. We will continue to work closely with DOE to develop a path forward.

Web Postings

- WRPS is conducting pilot-scale testing of equipment at A and AP Tank Farms to demonstrate the recommended technologies in the field at potential source locations, the work zone and the tank farm fence line. [New data sets](#) were added to the web this week detailing the results of those tests.

News & Notes

- An [article in the Tri-City Herald](#) highlighted a proposal to extend legal deadlines for finishing cleanup work in Hanford's C Farm.
- There were two separate odor events reported last week. Here are the details:
 - [Odors reported at AX change tent – November 30](#)
 - [Odors reported – December 1](#)

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occur.

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concerns?**

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- [A story published by KING 5](#) claimed an instrument alarm was ignored in the minutes before workers reported unexpected odors in a change tent. WRPS provided a clarifying statement with details from the shift log.

Opportunities for Employee Engagement

- The next Chemical Vapors Solutions Team (CVST) meeting is Dec. 14, 2 to 4 p.m. at the 2704 building, room G206. Meetings are open to all employees. Please coordinate attendance with your supervisor.
- The CVST communications subcommittee will meet Dec. 12 from 3 to 4 p.m. at the 2704 building, room B226. Please join the group as we identify topics to share with workers.

Mark