

Hanford Tank Vapors

Vapors Weekly Update
January 6, 2017



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

From the desk of Mark Lindholm, WRPS President:

Happy New Year! AY-102 waste retrieval continued after the Christmas holiday, although the cold and snowy weather have presented a number of challenges. More than 135,000 gallons of sludge have now been retrieved from the tank.

Operations resumed on Dec. 29 and sluicing was performed continuously for 30 hours until it was shut down early on Dec. 31 for air bottle delivery. Retrieval resumed that afternoon before being shut down due to elevated ammonia readings from the AP Farm ventilation exhaust stack.

Fluctuating ammonia levels prevented operations on Jan. 1 and excessive snowfall caused the cancelation of retrieval operations on Jan. 2. Since then, sluice pit temperatures have dropped below our required threshold for operating the system.

The total volume of waste remaining in AY-102 is estimated to be 26,000 gallons, which includes about 6,000 gallons of supernate added during sluicing. About 10 percent of the starting sludge volume remains.

The chemical vapor controls put in place during retrieval – including expanded vapor control zones, additional monitoring equipment and Industrial Hygiene support, restricted access to areas around the AY and AP tank farms and conducting retrieval operations on night shifts and weekends – have proven effective in preventing worker exposure events.

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

Web Postings

- [Technologies for Addressing Chemical Vapors](#): many technologies to reduce or eliminate chemical vapors in Hanford's tank farms have been evaluated since the late 1980s. This document describes the technologies and engineering controls that have been considered and/or implemented in the tank farms.
- [WRPS Response to the Office of Inspector General Report](#): the Department of Energy's Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted a special review from May through November 2016 that looked at

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chemical vapor exposure concerns at Hanford's tank farms. The OIG team assessed the status of actions to address the 47 recommendations made in 2014.

News & Notes

- WRPS continued its strong performance in FY 2016, receiving a "very good" overall rating in its annual award fee evaluation. Our performance was rated in eight special-emphasis areas. We received "excellent" ratings in two of the areas and "very good" in the remaining five areas. [Read the article published in the Tri-City Herald.](#)

Opportunities for Employee Engagement

- An all-employee meeting is scheduled for 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 12, at the Toyota Center, 7000 W. Grandridge Blvd. in Kennewick. All WRPS, staff augmentation and subcontractor employees are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be provided. See you there!

Mark