

Hanford Tank Vapors

Vapors Weekly Update

February 23, 2017



A weekly recap of events regarding Hanford's tank vapors

From the desk of Mark Lindholm, WRPS President:

A break in the weather and a team ready to seize the opportunity paved the way for crews to transfer liquid waste earlier this month between two double-shell tanks (DSTs), AP-103 and AY-101. The transfer was completed on Feb. 11 after more than 45 hours of operation, with the team moving nearly 400,000 gallons of waste between the DSTs.

Enhanced controls were put in place to protect workers against the potential presence of chemical vapors. The control strategy – reviewed by the Chemical Vapor Solutions Team (CVST), HAMTC leadership and the Department of Energy (DOE) – was the same used during AY-102 retrieval.

We also took advantage of the transfer to conduct chemical-filter cartridge testing at the receiving tank exhaust system (702-AZ) to obtain data on the effectiveness of cartridges during waste-disturbing activities. The information collected will be shared at a later date.

The project overcame its share of obstacles. Winter weather conditions provided a number of challenges for crews throughout the preparation and execution of the transfer. My thanks to all involved who helped overcome those challenges – specifically the area teams within Production Operations and Retrieval – to see this project through to successful completion. Thank you, and congratulations.

Moving forward, WRPS continues to develop and test engineering controls in the field. This weekend, we plan to test new exhausters in AX Farm using a tank vapors control strategy reviewed by the CVST, HAMTC leadership and the DOE. The shift to active ventilation aims to significantly reduce headspace vapor concentrations, leading to improved conditions in the work area.

News & Notes

- An [article in the Tri-City Herald](#) highlights a judge's decision to postpone vapors litigation from October 2017 to March 2018, allowing parties to pursue mediation.

Opportunities for Employee Engagement

- The CVST communications subcommittee will meet Monday, March 6, 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

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