



From the desk of Mark Lindholm, WRPS President and Project Manager:

Waste-disturbing activity in AW Farm postponed until mid-June

Preparations continue to prepare to operate the Air Lift Circulators (ALCs) in double-shell tank AW-102 in mid-June. The ALCs are routinely operated prior to a 242-A Evaporator campaign to mix supernatant waste prior to processing. The airlift circulators, large pipes suspended vertically in the tank, work by injecting air bubbles into the waste. The bubbles rise, bringing waste up into each tube and mixing it.

During ALC operation, sampling crews will be testing air-purifying respirator cartridges connected to the AW Farm primary exhaust stack. Collecting performance data on filter cartridge performance during waste-disturbing activities is an important part of our vapor program.

The vapor control strategy for this waste-disturbing activity was reviewed by the Chemical Vapor Solutions Team (CVST) and HAMTC leadership. During operation, which will occur on a weekend, the area surrounding AW Farm will be posted as "ACCESS RESTRICTED, ALC OPERATION IN PROGRESS, AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY, OTHERS CONTACT 373-2689." Personnel needing access to the area during ALC operations will receive a briefing on the operation and the industrial hygiene control plan. The authorized personnel list will be maintained at the Central Shift Office in 274-AW.

Additional controls deployed during this operation include the use of supplied air within AW Farm; supplemental AreaRAEs; enhanced IH monitoring and sampling, and monitoring by the RJ Lee mobile laboratory.

News

- Representatives from WRPS, DOE, the Department of Justice, Washington State, Hanford Challenge, and Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 598 will meet May 18 and 19 for the second round of mediation of a lawsuit filed in September 2015. Should mediation not prove successful, a trial is set for April 2018 in U.S. District Court in Richland.

Opportunities for Employee Engagement

- The next CVST Communication Sub-Team meeting is June 5, from 3 to 4 p.m. at 2704-HV, Room B-226.
- The next full CVST meeting is Wednesday, May 24, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the 2704-HV building, room G-206.

Mark