



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

In August 2016, Washington River Protection Solutions (WRPS), and the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to resolve a HAMTC stop-work order requiring workers to use supplied air when within the perimeter fences of tank farms. The MOA requires that tank farm workers use supplied air, such as self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), until approval of Full Face Air Purifying Respirators (FFAPRs).

Respirator filter cartridges are tested in the tank farms, the results are evaluated by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and a third-party independent consultant reviews the testing methodology and results. HAMTC selected StoneTurn Consultants to conduct the review. The MOA stipulates that WRPS and HAMTC must agree on respiratory protection equipment until additional engineered controls or other protection measures are proven effective.

In March 2017, based upon testing and evaluation respirator filter cartridges, with the concurrence of StoneTurn, WRPS and HAMTC jointly decided to allow a pilot trial of FFAPRs for low-hazard, non-waste-disturbing work in the AP Tank Farm. Data collected during this FFAPR pilot would be used to strengthen the confidence in the use of FFAPRs in the AP Tank Farm. Recently, after reviewing additional data and a comprehensive hazard analysis for AP Tank Farm, StoneTurn recommended that workers halt the use of FFAPRs and continue to use supplied air in AP Farm until additional evaluation is performed.

WRPS, in cooperation with HAMTC, continues to take a very conservative approach to protecting workers from potential exposures to chemical vapors. WRPS, Hanford's union workers, and StoneTurn will continue to work together to ensure that workers are using the proper respiratory equipment for the tasks they perform while in the tank farms.

News & Notes

Two articles published in the in the Tri-City Herald relating to chemical vapors. Read by clicking the links below:

- [Helping ill Hanford workers targeted by Senate bill](#)
- [No fast progress in Hanford vapors lawsuit](#)

Opportunities for Employee Engagement

- The next full Chemical Vapors Solutions Team (CVST) meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 28, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Conference Room G-206 in 2704-HV.

Mark

Have questions? Send us a message! wrpsadmin@rl.gov