



Hanford Tank Vapors

Vapors Weekly Update
June 12, 2018

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

Starting today, some workers in the AP tank farm will have the option to use full-face air-purifying respirators (FFAPRs) equipped with filter cartridges for low-hazard non-waste-disturbing work in the AP tank farm. Workers on other tasks will continue to use self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) in the tank farm.

The option to use FFAPRs is consistent with the 2016 Memorandum of Agreement signed by WRPS and the Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council (HAMTC) that requires the use of supplied air inside tank farm boundaries until respiratory cartridge testing was completed and an independent third-party expert concurred with the cartridge testing data. The third-party expert, StoneTurn Consultants, was selected by HAMTC to review the testing methodology, protocols, and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's analysis of the results of the cartridge testing.

We began using FFAPRs in SY Farm in December for low-hazard, non-waste-disturbing work. Based on our experience in AP Farm, we anticipate offering the option to use the less-cumbersome respirators in other actively ventilated tank farms later this summer.

WRPS is maintaining a very conservative approach to protecting workers from potential exposure to harmful chemical vapors. We rely on a defense-in-depth approach that utilizes a combination of administrative controls and procedures, engineering controls and protective equipment, back up by monitoring the conditions in the tank farms.

As always, tank farm workers have the option to voluntarily upgrade their protective equipment, as long as use of the equipment does not create additional safety hazards.

Opportunities for Employee Engagement

- The next full Chemical Vapors Solutions Team (CVST) meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Conference Room G-206 in 2704-HV.
- The CVST Communications Sub-Team meeting is 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 18, in Conference Room 110 at 2425 Stevens Center.

Mark

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