1 of 1

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Office, Richland, WashingtonEVENTS OF IMPORTANCE FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 2, 1949

SYMBOL: ICH:RWR

Enclosed is subject report for week ending January 26, 1949.

Encl: Copies #1 thru #12

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EVENTS OF IMPORTANCE FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 2, 1949

Hanford Operations Office
Richland, Washington

I - ADMINISTRATION - The Pasco General Depot, formerly utilized as a receiving and distribution point, ceased operating as such February 1, 1949. Future use will be confined to the accumulation and disposal of any excess and surplus property.

II - OPERATIONS

Alpha Rolled Metal - Approximately 13% of the alpha rolled, lead dipped slugs exposed to 220-230 concentration have dragged slightly upon discharge. No similar difficulties have been experienced with alpha rolled, triple dipped slugs. Rather than chance further problems which might result at higher levels of exposure it has been decided to discharge the remaining 63 tons of lead dipped pieces at 225 concentration. This will necessitate use of seven additional tons of metal over that necessary if the metal was allowed to go to the 250 level.

The first alpha rolled triple dip material at 280 Mw D concentration was discharged on January 31 without difficulty. The material showed no evidence of distortion.

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P - 10 - Dry runs on hydrogen-helium mixtures are under way.

Redox - Admiral G. L. Schuyler, U. S. Navy, completed his survey of the 321 Building to determine the cause of the explosion of January 23, 1949. No formal report of the causes(s) has been received but this office has been informed that the most probable cause was an explosion of solvent vapor probably caused by an over-heated pump bearing. He recommended that tests be conducted to determine whether an explosion could be set off in this manner. Chemical investigations are continuing to determine the possible products formed from reaction between hexone, nitric acid and ammonium nitrate, and whether any of these compounds are explosive. It has been determined that a diketone and a dinitroisobutane are formed, and the possibility that some metallic salts of this dinitro compound are explosive is being investigated.

Separations Plant Operations - The two plants processed a total of 75 production runs during the month of January. This compares to a monthly average of 50 runs prior to operating two extraction steps in parallel.

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Pile Operation - The concentration of carbon dioxide in each pile is as follows: B-25%, D-40%, and F-25%. Since March 1948 only a 25 mil increase in the elevation of the D pile has been measured.

III - CONSTRUCTION

Process Areas:

100 (Pile) Areas:

100-H - A total of 69,455 pieces of graphite have been fabricated to date for the 105-H pile. Layer 37 is now being assembled in the assembly block. The 105-H Building is 41% complete and the total project is 43% complete.

100-DR - With the present manpower, the anticipated testing and the 105-DR project will be completed about February 28, 1949. Because of weather conditions no inspection of leakage causes in 107-DR (Retention Basin) is being undertaken.

P-10 - Installation of equipment, assembly work, pipefitting, wiring and instrumentation work are continuing and the project is considered to be 83% complete.

200 (Separation) Areas:

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234-5 - Plaster and lathing crews have been increased to meet the completion schedule for this work by February 15, 1949. Ventilating is 52% complete and work reached the highest completion rate during this week. Piping work is 50% complete but undelivered equipment and a shortage of heli-arc welders for use on stainless steel are delaying the work. The project is 65% complete overall with Phase I of Building 234-5 64% complete.

Redox - It is anticipated that the 3'-6" base slab for the redox test plant will be poured January 2, 1949.

Waste Storage - The 241-TX waste storage tank farm is being used by Operations although piping work is not complete. Wall steel has been erected on 5 tanks on the 241-BY storage project and the project is considered 33% complete.

Process Areas - General:

Final inspection of the 231 Building, Process Waste Control Project, was held January 28, 1949 and it was accepted without exception.

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Page # 3

Work on the 3706 Building conversion to laboratories and the 3707-C Change House is 64% complete with work in the filter room, steam control, and electrical installations in progress.

Richland Village:

Housing - All 1000 "Ranch" type houses were accepted with exception February 1, 1949; however, utilities in area "F" are being delayed because of weather and occupancy of a few houses will not be permissible until these utilities can be completed.

Schools - It is anticipated that all rooms of the Junior High School scheduled for occupancy February 28, 1949 will be completed. The school is estimated to be 88% complete. Fans and air washers are being installed in the Spalding School and kitchen equipment is now being delivered for the Marcus Whitman School.

Miscellaneous Construction - Plans for the Kadlec Hospital Additions have been turned over to the General Electric Contract Section but work on the specifications is not yet completed.

Plans and specifications for improvement of the Richland A.E.C. Airport are being prepared for invitations to bid.

The addition to the village sewage disposal plant is 96% complete with work on the primary digester equipment installation 90% complete and work on the secondary digester awaiting arrival of the floating dome. The trickling filter is complete and the primary and secondary clarifier equipment is 95% placed. Equipment in the chlorination building is 97% installed and equipment installation in the pump and boiler houses is 95% complete.

Preliminary foundation exploration results for the Southern R.R. Connection indicate that design revisions for fill just south south of the Yakima River will be necessary.

Personnel:

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There are approximately 13,735 construction and 802 Architect Engineer (less Turnbull) employees on the payroll. Camp population is 12,414 and there are 314 applicants for trailer space.

[REDACTED]

IV - VISITORS:

Mr. S. Untermeyer and Mr. Anderson of Argonne National Laboratories, Chicago, Illinois, arrived on the Project on January 31, and are reviewing the irradiation program of reactor materials.

V - SCHENECTADY - CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS KAPL:

Construction Progress:

Pilot Plant - Completed painting the structural steel and started setting scale platforms and tanks on weigh tank floor. In the annex, began placing stainless steel floor lining in cell number five and completed welding stainless steel floor lining in cells number one to four. Concreted rough floor slab in scrubber pump house. Completed welding of roof decking and commenced application of built up roofing.

Pilot Plant Lab - Dr. Braggs group of Chemical Engineers will move into a portion of the laboratory this week.

General Office & Security Bldg. - Concreted curtain wall. Commenced application of built up roofing and completed welding and burning of metal floor and roof decking. Completed installation of piping in pipe trenches and tunnel.

Physics Lab. - Commenced application of built up roofing.

Central Shops - Completed hydrostatic tests on hot and cold water overhead piping. Commenced installation and connecting of hot water heater and unit heaters. Started installation of switch gear in load center and conduit for alarm systems.

Metallurgy and Engineering Bldg. - Started concreting rough floor slab in the south half of the structure.

Chemistry Lab. - Completed hanging access doors to the process tunnels and glazing of windows. Started erection of structural steel for catwalks in the service tunnel. Resumed work on the installation of process piping.

Waste Concentration and Storage Bldg. - Concreted base around T bars for stainless steel lining in cold evaporator cell. Started formwork for slab and beams of drum dryer cells.

General:

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A decision has been made to go to a forty hour work week on all construction jobs in Schenectady starting next week in lieu of present forty-five hour work week.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At the request of INL the Airco group will undertake the rare gas problem of that laboratory. At Airco Laboratory an apparatus for evaluating the adsorptive qualities of carbon is being set up. The silver bed reactor is about ready for operation. Through Dr. Wolf of N.Y.O.O., arrangements have been made for Carl Braestrup to advise Airco on handling radioiodine acid in setting up this reactor.

Dr. Channing Nelson of SOD Laboratory has been sent to HOO at Mr. Muirs request to act as a consultant on cause and remedy for recent chemical explosion at Hanford.

A group of Westinghouse personnel will visit this office February 2, 1949 to seek information relative to setting up the new office in Pittsburgh.

Arrangements have been made for Colonel Dutton of the Army Ordnance to visit Schenectady Operations next week for discussions with General Electric and Commission groups on certain building design problems for the reactor site.

Lt. Commander Laney from Bu. Ships and Hugglesworth of Gibbs and Cox are spending this week at Schenectady in discussions on liquid metal problems with interested parties of the Contractor, Navy, and A.E.C.

Fred C. Schlemmer
Fred C. Schlemmer
Manager

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