

Response to Hanford Tank Vapor Assessment Team (TVAT) Report

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Continued Commitment

- WRPS maintains a strong commitment to reduce or eliminate worker exposure to chemical vapors
- Have been making improvements since 2008
- Intensified focus following spring/summer events
- Will implement SRNL Tank Vapor Assessment Team (TVAT) recommendations
- Multi-year effort, integrated with mission priorities and funding
 - May require additional research and development, new science, novel approaches

Major vapor protection actions since April

- April -- Enhanced controls for work activities that have the potential to create a new emission source for vapors; re-formed internal Chemical Vapor Solutions team
- May -- Required half-face or full-face respirator with chemical cartridges for entry into areas involving waste-disturbing activities
- June – Engaged Savannah River National Laboratory to perform an external review of the industrial hygiene program and offer recommendations to control vapors
- Summer -- Increased industrial hygiene staffing to allow for full characterization of emission points in A/AX Farms prior to retrieval and piloted new vapor monitoring technologies; installed real-time vapor monitoring inside C Farm
- September -- Based on early draft of SRNL report, upgraded to required use of half-face (minimum) cartridge respirators in all single-shell tank farms
- November – Based on receipt of final SRNL report, upgraded to required use of supplied air in all single-shell tank farms and under certain conditions in double-shell tanks, pending evaluation of the effectiveness of chemical cartridges



WRPS Implementation Plan

- Plan will include actions recommended from the TVAT and Chemical Vapor Solutions Team (CVST)
- Organized under the TVAT's 10 overarching recommendations according to short-, intermediate-, and long-term actions
- Implementation efforts have begun or been completed for many of the 47 TVAT recommendations
 - Major one being the required use of minimum half-face respirators in SST farms. Others include hiring of additional IH staff and evaluation of new engineering controls, monitoring systems and personal protective equipment.
- Implementation of the plan will be managed as a project –scope, cost, schedule, funding, risk and priority
- Scheduled to be issued in December