Response to Hanford Tank Vapor Assessment Team (TVAT) Report

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Hanford Advisory Board
Tank Waste Committee Meeting
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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