Nov. 16, 2016

Today, the Department of Energy Office of Inspector General (OIG) made public its report on the special review conducted in June that looked at chemical vapor exposure concerns at Hanford's tank farms. WRPS provided full access to the OIG team, which interviewed 52 tank farm workers during its review.

The OIG review "did not reveal significant issues with regard to the Department's and WRPS' strategy and ongoing actions to address vapor risks." The review team also noted that "Department and WRPS leadership have taken action to improve communication with the workforce on issues pertaining to vapors."

There were three recommendations stemming from the OIG review, and WRPS is committed to their implementation. We are:

- Taking steps to strengthen the tracking and closure of vapor issues using the Problem Evaluation Request (PER) system.
- Working to summarize prior and ongoing engineering control evaluation reports and to share these with the workforce and the public.
- Continuing to develop and sustain a strong safety culture by using the Chemical Vapors Solutions Team and other ways for employees to raise safety concerns.

The full OIG report is available here.

WRPS has taken a number of actions to address the risks posed by vapors, and we appreciate the OIG recognizing those efforts. Pilot-scale technology testing is underway at Hanford's A and AP Farms. We are working with union representatives to find additional ways to protect workers. And we are improving transparency and communication with the workforce, including use of new tools available on the hanfordvapors.com website.

If you have any concerns, I invite you to share them with me or your manager. Our workplace is, and always will be, a place where each of us can identify issues and discuss them without fear of retaliation.

Thank you for your commitment to the safe principles that provide a firm foundation for our work as we continue in our pledge to maintain a safety-conscious workplace.

Mark

Mark Lindholm
President & Project Manager