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Subject: Blue Alert: Safety Significant Work by Unevaluated Supplier

Project Hanford Lessons Learned

Title: Safety Significant Work by Unevaluated Supplier

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Lessons Learned Statement: Prospective suppliers for safety significant equipment in nuclear facilities are to be evaluated and selected according to specific criteria. Managers of those facilities should be extremely careful to procure goods and services from only evaluated suppliers for nuclear applications.

Discussion of Activities: A manager with heightened awareness of the requirement to procure services from only suppliers on the Evaluated Supplier List (ESL) identified a case where an unlisted supplier had performed maintenance on a Safety Significant system.

In May 1999, a Babcock & Wilcox Hanford Company assessor reported to the Operations Manager at the Plutonium Finishing Plant that US West Telephone, a supplier not listed on the Project Hanford Management Contract ESL, had performed a modification to the plant PAX telephone system in August 1998. The modification was performed and tested and has been operable since installation.

Quality Assurance (QA) retrieved the original work package from storage, reviewed it and initiated a nonconformance report (NCR) citing a nonconformance to 10CFR830.120, Nuclear Safety Management, Subpart A, Quality Assurance Rules, Paragraph © (2) (iii), which states "Procured items and services shall meet established requirements and perform as specified. Prospective suppliers shall be evaluated and selected on the bases of specific criteria. Processes to ensure that approved suppliers continue to provide acceptable items and services shall be implemented." The NCR indicated that equipment and services were not procured from an evaluated supplier for Safety Significant systems.

Analysis: The PAX system at PFP is a Safety Significant system because it is used to make public address announcements to the facility. System Design Description document HNF-SD-CP-SDD-009 "Definition and Means of Maintaining the Emergency Notification and Evacuation System Portion of the PFP Safety Envelope," defines the Safety Significant portion of the PAX system as the 70 volt speaker system that covers the 25 REM boundary within the PFP Complex.

As a result of a recent compliance order from DOE, attention has focused on the requirement for rigidly adhering to the Evaluated Supplier List when procuring safety significant equipment. Thus the Operations Manager was sensitized to this issue and promptly resolved the concern when it was identified.

The ISMS expectation "Major Subcontractors evaluate work to be conducted in a nuclear facility against its approved authorization basis and conduct USQ screenings as necessary" applies in this case. The facility should have ensured that the supplier providing the service was on the Evaluated Supplier List so that work was accomplished according to the approved authorization basis. By demonstrating compliance with ISMS Guiding Principle number 1, Line management is directly responsible for protecting the workers, the public, and the environment, facility management identified the

nonconformance and resolved the issue.

Recommended Actions: Managers of nuclear facilities should be extremely careful to procure goods and services only from evaluated suppliers for Safety Class or Safety Significant Structures, Systems, and Components (SSC).

Priority Descriptor: BLUE/Information

Functional Categories (DOE): Maintenance, Management, Quality

Functional Categories (Hanford specific): None

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Keyword(s): Safety Significant system, Evaluated Supplier List; non-conformance;

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