

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 14, 2002

TO: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: D. F. Owen, RFETS Site Representative
SUBJECT: RFETS Activity Report for the Week Ending June 14, 2002

Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System (PuSPS). Since PuSPS startup 12 months ago, RFETS has completed approximately 770 DOE-STD-3013 containers (not counting those in a reject/rework status).

The motor end of the motor-generator power supply for the laser welder failed late last week and a new power supply is being installed and tested. As a result, PuSPS operations have been stopped all this week and are not expected to resume until early next week. (3-A)

Conduct of Operations. A ventilation system upset occurred in Building 371 when certain ventilation system dampers went to the full open position as a result of a plant air system valve being improperly shut. The upset led to an operations area evacuation and created sufficiently high negative pressure in a PuSPS helium glovebox to force fluid in the criticality drain line (that provides a helium to air seal) up into the glovebox.

Initial fact-finding on this event indicated conduct of operations deficiencies among operations personnel. A utility systems operator in Building 371 was given direction to shut a nitrogen system regulating valve (valve "N-50") but instead shut the plant air system valve (valve "PA-50") that was clearly labeled and located near N-50. Additionally, it was determined that the utility systems supervision had not informed the shift manager of the intention to shut the nitrogen valve as required. Reinforcement training for utility systems operators and their supervision on proper conduct-of-operations was conducted by Building 371 management. DOE-RFFO is continuing follow-up on this event. (1-C)

New Building 460 Low-Level Waste Storage Mission. Kaiser-Hill has been making preparations to begin low-level waste (LLW) storage in the high bay of Building 460. LLW storage operations would be the first nuclear activities in the Building 460 high bay; the remainder of Building 460 is office area. Based on the planned inventory of radioactive material to be stored in Building 460, Kaiser-Hill has categorized the facility as Hazard Category 2.

This week, Kaiser-Hill has submitted their Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) for Building 460 to DOE-RFFO for final approval. Kaiser-Hill is also proposing an exemption to the requirement to perform Kaiser-Hill and DOE Operational Readiness Reviews and instead perform a Kaiser-Hill Readiness Assessment to confirm readiness for the Building 460 LLW operations. Kaiser-Hill is planning on conducting their Readiness Assessment in July. The proposed DSA and exemption request is being provided to the Board's staff. (3-A)

cc
Board Members