

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 7, 2000

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director
J. K. Fortenberry, Deputy Technical Director
FROM: D. F. Owen, D. J. Grover, RFETS Site Representatives
SUBJECT: RFETS Activity Report for the Week Ending January 7, 2000

Integrated Safety Management (ISM). Based on programmatic reviews of ISM implementation and recent floor-level assessments, Kaiser-Hill has declared to DOE-RFFO that ISM has been implemented by Kaiser-Hill and its subcontractors. This declaration is a step towards overall declaration of ISM implementation by RFETS. The Kaiser-Hill declaration notes that improvements in the RFETS Integrated Work Control Program are planned in areas such as integration of hazard analysis efforts and training for personnel responsible for work planning (see the site rep. report of December 30, 1999). DOE-RFFO is completing reviews of ISM implementation prior to overall declaration of ISM implementation at RFETS. (1-C)

Building 991 Operations. As noted in the site rep. reports of October 8, November 5, and December 3, 1999, normal operations in Building 991 (activities related to TRU waste storage) have been suspended due to problems with conduct of operations and implementation of safety controls. There continue to be delays in implementation of safety controls required by the new Building 991 Final Safety Analysis Report. As a result, Kaiser-Hill has submitted a Justification for Continued Operation (JCO) to allow limited drum movements to support a safeguards accountability inventory and to reduce personnel exposure. Limited activities to stage and ship Special Nuclear Material offsite were also requested to be allowed. DOE-RFFO approved the JCO this week with the requirement that Kaiser-Hill conduct a Readiness Assessment for these operations. (3-A)

Worker Dose Tracking. A salt residue processing worker in Building 707 received a cumulative extremity dose of 18.317 rem in 1999 exceeding the RFETS ACL of 15 rem but within the regulatory limit of 50 rem. This worker was in a program where dosimeters are read frequently. While the whole body dosimeters were read and reported promptly, the extremity dosimeter results were not read in a timely manner due to the lack of a formalized process for reporting frequently pulled dosimeters. This resulted in cumulative extremity dose readings being reported to line management up to one month out-of-date. Corrective actions for the dose reporting process are being determined. (1-A)

Public Interaction. The site reps. presented an update on Board activities to the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board. Topics discussed included risk reduction activities completed under Recommendation 94-1, work planning and control, glovebox size reduction operations and technology development, and progress towards startup of the Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System (PuSPS). The site reps. answered questions concerning PuSPS startup delays, proposed disposal of sand, slag and crucible residues and plutonium fluorides at WIPP, and planned RFETS Fire Department outsourcing to a local municipality.

cc: Board Members