

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 14, 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 14, 2000

**Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System (PuSPS).** The PuSPS project has begun to weld test coupons to qualify the outer container welding process to ASME requirements in compliance with DOE-STD-3013. Operator on-the-job training with the system has resumed following maintenance to correct mechanical problems with the inner and outer container welding systems. The inner container welding system, however, continues to have problems reliably producing satisfactory welds. RFETS is in the process of procuring replacement parts for the purge system as recommended by the system vendor. Once these parts have been installed further testing will be conducted to test the quality of the inner can welds and reliability of the inner can welding system prior to final testing of the packaging system.

Based on the PuSPS delays, RFETS is now projecting that the start of metal packaging following readiness reviews will be no earlier than mid-February. Therefore, RFETS will not meet the Recommendation 94-1 Implementation Plan milestone to start material packaging by January 2000. (3-A)

**Fire Department Outsourcing.** As noted in the site rep. report of December 3, 1999, there has been a substantial loss of experienced firefighters from the RFETS Fire Department during the past few years and Kaiser-Hill has been working with local municipalities regarding contracting out the RFETS Fire Department operations. Additional experienced RFETS Fire Department personnel losses occurred in late December. The Board's staff and the site reps. have been discussing planned provisions in such an outsourcing contract with DOE-RFFO to ensure safety matters are appropriately incorporated. DOE-RFFO is addressing these issues. Contract negotiations between Kaiser-Hill and the City of Arvada are expected to start by early the week of January 17, 2000. The negotiations are expected to take only one week. (1-C)

**Building 779 Cluster.** Decommissioning activities in Building 782, the ventilation plenum building for Building 779, has reduced the radiological material inventory to less than 0.16 grams of plutonium allowing re-categorization as an industrial facility. As Building 782 was the last radiological building in the Building 779 cluster, the Building 779 Basis for Interim Operation and Authorization Agreement are no longer in effect. (3-B)

cc: Board Members