

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 3, 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 March 3, 2000

Mr. Owen was on leave March 1–3. DNFSB staff members R. Kasdorf and J. Troan were on site this week reviewing the integrated work control program, glovebox size reduction, and plutonium metal and oxide packaging.

Building 371 Operations. Building 371 formally curtailed operations on February 25th due to multiple ongoing deficiencies in implementing four of the Basis for Interim Operation administrative control programs (Inventory Control, Combustible Control, Configuration Management, and Maintenance and Surveillance). The curtailment of operations affected residue processing, deactivation activities, and all hot work. The identified deficiencies indicate an overall weakness in the administration of these programs due in part to a lack of management attention to the individual programs. Deficiencies include a failure to follow DOE review and approval protocols for out-of-service safety related equipment and improper categorization of combustible control deficiencies. Kaiser-Hill is providing oversight personnel to aid in evaluating all the Building 371 administrative control programs to identify any other problems and to mentor the program managers.

Following two operational occurrences during the work curtailment, Kaiser-Hill suspended all operations not necessary to maintain the building in a safe configuration on March 1st. Kaiser-Hill has determined that an internal review of the administrative control program and an evaluation of DOE findings are necessary prior to lifting the suspension of operations. Safe Sites of Colorado is developing a plan to complete these reviews and identify corrective actions. (3-A)

Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System (PuSPS). Kaiser-Hill has decided to proceed with a combined metal and oxide start-up (see last week's site rep. report). A revised project schedule is currently under development with an estimated start up date in August 2000.

The Board staff reviewed the contamination control plans for the packaging system. The project is planning to install additional equipment to reduce contamination in the gloveboxes thereby minimizing the potential for contamination on the outer surface of the inner container. The project also plans to install an alpha-particle detector in the fume hood to check for such contamination. The Board staff identified concerns with the plans for controlling contamination in the outer container processing area. The project plans to address these concerns in the hazard analysis for the combined start-up and incorporate the appropriate radiological controls. (3-A)

cc: Board Members