

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 19, 2000

TO: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director

FROM: D. F. Owen, RFETS Site Representative

SUBJECT: RFETS Activity Report for the Week Ending May 19, 2000

David Grover was out of the office this week.

Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System (PuSPS). As noted in site rep. report of April 21, a revised Recommendation 94-1 Implementation Plan startup milestone of October 2000 for PuSPS was proposed by DOE-RFFO. However, project schedules continue to slip (a November 2000 startup has been discussed) due to procurement delays of stabilization components and overall slow stabilization system construction. This has caught the attention of top DOE-RFFO and Kaiser-Hill management. Weekly project reviews, held by top Kaiser-Hill management, have been started to identify problems and solutions to the continued delays.

One of the staff's observations provided in the Board's letter on PuSPS dated April 25, 2000, concerned the level of review to confirm readiness for PuSPS operations. This week, DOE-RFFO has determined that Kaiser-Hill and DOE-RFFO Operational Readiness Reviews (ORRs) will be required prior to PuSPS startup. (3-A)

Building 991 Operations. As noted in the site rep. report of April 28, 2000, Kaiser-Hill and DOE-RFFO Independent Validation Reviews (IVRs) focusing on implementation of the new Building 991 Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) were to be performed prior to allowing unrestricted operations. Limited transuranic waste drum movements and staging/shipping activities had been allowed in the facility during the past few months under a Justification for Continued Operation. During the past two weeks, the IVRs have been completed. The IVR teams identified substantial improvement in formality and completeness of authorization basis implementation since the September 1999 initial suspension of operations. Limited sets of prestart findings identified during the IVRs have been resolved and verified closed by DOE-RFFO. DOE-RFFO authorized unrestricted waste storage and handling operations in Building 991 on May 18, 2000. (3-A)

Planned Building 374 Acid Neutralization Operations. Operations to receive and neutralize low-level aqueous waste solutions (mostly acidic) in Building 374 are planned for start-up in mid-summer 2000. This is start-up of a new activity requiring changes to the Building 374 authorization basis in areas such as ventilation and combustible control surveillances. Last week, DOE-RFFO directed that ORRs will be performed to confirm readiness for this activity. (3-A)

cc:

Board Members