

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 29, 1999

**TO:** G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director  
K. Fortenberry, Deputy Technical Director  
**FROM:** D. F. Owen, D. J. Grover, RFETS Site Representatives  
**SUBJECT:** RFETS Activity Report for the Week Ending October 29, 1999

**Recommendation 94-1.** The Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System (PuSPS) project is working to re-qualify the outer can weld, identifying certain weld parameters to address SRS comments, chief among which is control of the outer can weld gap. The resulting several week delay will likely use all the remaining schedule margin to meet the DOE Implementation Plan milestone to start metal or oxide packaging by January 2000. Additionally, DOE-RFFO has reviewed the Kaiser-Hill plan-of-action for the PuSPS Readiness Assessment (RA). DOE-RFFO determined the plan-of-action defined the RA to be too narrow in scope and was too vague in defining RA prerequisites; Kaiser-Hill will resubmit a revised plan-of action. (3-A)

**Building 776/777 Complex Deactivation.** In response to the poor implementation of new Basis for Interim Operation (BIO) safety controls identified during the August 1999 Independent Validation Review (IVR), Kaiser-Hill ordered a stand-down of operations in the Building 776/777 Complex (see Site Rep. Report of August 20). During the past two months, the Building 776/777 Complex has been focused on properly implementing the new BIO. A repeat of the Kaiser-Hill IVR has been in progress this week. Considerable improvement has been evident in personnel level of knowledge and overall implementation of the BIO controls. A facility drill program has been implemented with a drill satisfactorily demonstrated to the IVR team. The IVR is expected to be completed during the week of November 1, 1999. (3-B)

**Emergency Preparedness Exercise.** The site conducted an exercise in response to problems with command and control noted during the RFETS READY 99 annual exercise (see site rep. report of May 21, 1999). The scenario involved a glovebox breach and fire in Building 771 with injured/contaminated personnel. Problems with control of personnel were not evidenced during this exercise. The fire battalion chief located the incident command post a good distance upwind from the building, properly roped off the area, and had the necessary individuals at-hand to provide information to personnel. (1-C)

**Building 779 Demolition.** Demolition of administrative areas of Building 779 started this week. Following completion of final radiation surveys, demolition of former radiological areas is expected in mid-November. (3-B)

**Interaction with the Public.** During the past few weeks, the site reps. discussed site rep. activities and safety issues with members of the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments and the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board. A major focus area of these organizations is the requirements and controls governing building demolition and site environmental cleanup.

cc: Board Members