

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 5, 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 November 5, 1999

Dave Grover was out of the office on Thursday and Friday this week.

Building 776/777 Complex Deactivation. The Kaiser-Hill Independent Validation Review (IVR) of implementation of the new Basis for Interim Operation (BIO) was completed and results were briefed to RFETS management. The team noted considerable improvement in personnel level of knowledge and overall implementation of the BIO controls compared with that evident during the August 1999 IVR (and requiring a repeat of the IVR). There were a number of findings, however, the deficiencies were generally narrow in scope and the IVR team concluded that the facility has effectively implemented the BIO. Building management expects to close the pre-start findings by November 12, 1999. (3-B)

TRU Waste Storage in Building 991. As noted in the site rep. report of October 8, 1999, efforts to transition to a new authorization basis (AB) consistent with the Building 991 mission of TRU waste storage have revealed that the facility has historically been operating outside its current AB. As a result, operations in the building were suspended and efforts to properly implement the new AB have been underway by Rocky Mountain Remediation Services (RMRS). A need to move about 270 Pipe Overpack Containers (POCs), containing stabilized salt residues, out of Building 991 in preparation for shipment to WIPP has been identified. As a result, Kaiser-Hill submitted a request to DOE-RFFO to conduct the POC movements out of Building 991 during the next few weeks. The Kaiser-Hill request identified several compensatory measures for fire protection, ventilation and extra RMRS and Kaiser-Hill oversight and also committed to conduct a Readiness Assessment (RA) for this operation. DOE-RFFO approved the request with some additional conditions related to fire protection and ventilation. The RA is expected to be completed and the POC movements started early the week of November 8, 1999. (3-A)

RFETS Response to the Criticality Accident in Japan. RFETS management has been defining actions to address criticality safety in response to the recent criticality accident in Japan. Some of the RFETS actions identified to date include additional training, review of the process for determining if a criticality in a location is "incredible," and acceleration of prior planned criticality safety-related reviews. (1-C)

cc: Board Members