

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 12, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director
J. Kent Fortenberry, Deputy Technical Director

FROM: C. H. Keilers / R. T. Davis

SUBJECT: SRS Report for Week Ending March 12, 1999

Year 2000 Compliance - The DOE Chief Information Officer (CIO), John Gilligan, was on site Tuesday to discuss the status and schedule of year 2000 compliance efforts at SRS. DOE-HQ is concerned because 4 SRS mission-critical systems were not scheduled to meet the OMB March 31st deadline for compliance. DOE-SR/WSRC reported that they have made significant progress in accelerating their schedule and only 3 systems will not be compliant on March 31st. These systems are now scheduled to be compliant by July 31st (previously scheduled for October 31st). The site rep spoke with Mr. Gilligan concerning their response to the Board's reporting requirement and noted that the response did not appear to be comprehensive (i.e., many safety-related systems were not identified). The CIO agreed that staff to staff meetings would be useful in resolving our concerns. The site rep is working with DOE-SR/WSRC to ensure all SRS safety-related systems are identified.

Tank 49 Benzene Generation - Late last year, an Unreviewed Safety Question was identified for tank 49 because higher than expected benzene generation rates were observed. Tank 49 contains wash water from the 1983 demonstration of the In-Tank Precipitation process. A Justification for Continued Operations was approved in December which identified compensatory measures until this issue is resolved. As a part of the JCO, WSRC was required to produce a report within 60 days that analyzed the latest sample analysis and testing and addressed alternatives for returning the tank to normal operations. The report was issued on February 26 and recommends the following:

- Additional testing be performed to better quantify the benzene generation rate and potential for benzene retention
- Testing and evaluation of the organic/salts solids that were observed in the tank during a video inspection in January
- Pursue activities necessary to operate the slurry pumps to deplete the benzene in the tank
- A path forward to exit the JCO is provided that involves quantifying the benzene generation rate, evaluating benzene retention, and analyzing the solids observed in the tank

Wackenhut ISMS Verification - A review team lead by Roy Schepens completed Phase I & II assessment of the Wackenhut Service, Inc (WSI) Integrated Safety Management System implementation. The team recommended that DOE approve WSI's ISM system description and noted that both line management and employees appeared committed to a safe work environment.