

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 4, 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 June 4, 1999

Adequacy of Work Controls - On June 2, the Manager, DOE-SR, responded to the Board's letter of May 7, 1999, concerning the recent negative trends in work controls. The DOE-SR letter observes that these trends have been of concern to SRS senior management for several months and that an aggressive examination into causes and corrective actions has been ongoing. As problems were identified, WSRC slowed the operational tempo to regain full control of work activities (see site rep reports of 4/2/99 and 4/30/99). The DOE-SR Manager maintains close contact with the Facility Representatives to stay abreast of these matters. He has also asked WSRC to evaluate the bases for criticality controls because of recent problems in this area (see site rep reports of 2/19/99 and 4/9/99). WSRC is taking specific actions to improve procedure compliance training and first line supervisor training and assessment, and to emphasize Integrated Safety Management core functions and guiding principles. (I.A.4)

Americium/Curium Stabilization - On June 1, WSRC provided DOE-SR the preliminary design package for vitrification of americium/curium (Am/Cm) solution stored in F-Canyon. This package represents about 35% of the design effort and includes the preliminary design cost estimate, the revised schedule, the facility and system design descriptions, and the project risk assessment. WSRC now estimates that the project will cost about \$115M (including \$41.5M in sunk costs) and that it will be completed in November 2003. This schedule is a 14-month slip compared to the date given in the December 1998 revision to the DOE Implementation Plan for Recommendation 94-1. An independent review team will meet next week to review the package and provide recommendations to DOE-SR. DOE-SR expects to complete their review and approve beginning detailed design by end of June. (III.A.1)

Tritium Extraction Facility (TEF) Design - On May 28, the Manager, DOE-SR, approved the TEF Preliminary Safety Analysis Report. His letter states that recent developments involving complex-wide functional classification guides may result in evaluation guidelines more conservative than those currently employed. Additionally, the letter states that seismic Performance Categories may require reevaluation, considering recent questions by the DNFSB staff. DOE-SR requested WSRC to expeditiously resolve these issues prior to completing final design. (I.A.3, II.B.1)

Building 235F Plutonium Storage Expansion - This week, a site representative observed part of the WSRC management self-assessment for startup of the new vault in Building 235F. The observed evolutions went smoothly and are similar to those for other vaults in this facility. WSRC plans to complete startup activities later this month and be ready to receive and store materials from RFETS and other sites. (III.A.1)