

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 19, 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 November 19, 1999

FY 2000 Budget Shortfall: A DOE Headquarters team was on site this week conducting an end-of-the-year budget review for FY 1999 and evaluating the implications of anticipated FY 2000 budget reductions. Specifically, the site estimates a shortfall of about \$77M for work planned this fiscal year. WSRC has agreed to pursue a savings of approximately \$26M through management initiatives. To meet the remaining shortfall, DOE and WSRC are considering cuts to several Recommendation 94-1 activities (i.e., HB-Line Phase II restart, americium-curium stabilization, and plutonium stabilization/packaging), as well as the salt disposition project, and alternate technology development (i.e., spent fuel melt and dilute). Decisions are not expected until January 2000. (3.a)

Recommendation 94-1: Work at SRS on shipping and processing Rocky Flats fluoride residues continues to be unfunded but a path forward is emerging (site rep weekly 10/22/99). It appears that Rocky Flats and SRS agree that the path of least technical risk involves mixing the higher assay fluoride residues with sand, slag, and crucible (SS&C) residues and calcium oxide, shipping it to SRS, and processing it in F-Canyon. Lower assay material would be shipped to WIPP. WSRC estimates that it would take 8 months to certify the 9975 shipping container for the fluorides mixed with SS&C, compared to 17 months for fluorides alone. The schedule improvement results from taking advantage of extensive work done at SRS earlier this year evaluating SS&C shipment in 9975 containers. The disadvantages are that DOE may need more shipping containers and may need to amend a record of decision (site rep weeklies 8/20/99, 8/27/99). (3.a)

Work Controls: On Wednesday, DOE-SR issued a letter to the President, WSRC, identifying the need for improvements in conduct of operations. The letter states that substantial improvement is not evident despite significant corrective actions earlier this year (site rep weekly 6/4/99). It also states that recent occurrences show the need for improvement in understanding of Integrated Safety Management principles by management and workers. The letter was motivated by occurrences at several SRS facilities. Many of these events occurred in FB-Line, which is currently in a work stand-down. This week, WSRC issued a comprehensive corrective action plan to address deficiencies in FB-Line radiological practices. The plan is expected to take about 2 months to implement. (3.a)

K-Area Material Storage (KAMS): This week, the WSRC Operational Readiness Review (ORR) team completed most of its field observations. Their report is expected December 3. A DOE-SR validation team is also observing the ORR. Many of the WSRC team findings involve organizational interfaces, such as those between the security force and the facility, the security force and non-K-Area emergency responders, the facility and Rocky Flats, and the facility and F-Area. Findings include the lack of a plan for transporting a damaged shipping package from KAMS to FB-Line, as well as the lack of an approved shipper-receiver agreement with Rocky Flats. The latter may be hampered by the fact that Rocky Flats and SRS have been using different assumptions for container over-batching (1.6 and 1.0 kg, respectively). This just became known this month and could impact prior conclusions in safety and criticality analyses. It may also be affected by increased emphasis on 3013 container welder qualification. The DOE ORR is scheduled to begin December 13. (3.a)