

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 17, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director
FROM: J. Kent Fortenberry / Joe Sanders
SUBJECT: SRS Report for Week Ending October 17, 1997

The Board was onsite this week for discussions on Recommendation 94-1 activities, the Actinide Packaging & Storage Facility, the High Level Waste Tank Farm Safety Basis, the Tritium Extraction Facility, and the Americium-Curium melter.

Rich Tontodonato was onsite this week reviewing High Level Waste Tank Farm and In-Tank Precipitation facility issues, as well as attending a pit Corrosion Contingency Group meeting.

Mike Merritt, Dan Burnfield, and Ralph West were also onsite this week following the FB-Line 95-2 Integrated Safety Management System Review (Phase II).

HB-Line Control Room Fire - Smoke from a transformer failure in a small power conditioner located under floor panels in the HB-Line Phase III control room activated two smoke detectors, causing discharge of the Halon system and requiring evacuation. The first smoke detector alarmed at 09:52. The fire department arrived at the facility at 09:59 and the second smoke detector alarmed at 10:09, followed by a Halon discharge after a 60 second delay. No fuses or breakers tripped, and the power conditioner was de-energized at 10:14. The facility and fire department response was generally good. There was some difficulty locating the power supply to de-energize the source of the smoke, and DOE-SR asked WSRC to assess the availability of this information to operations. The cause of the transformer failure is being investigated. The DNFSB site rep asked WSRC to also investigate proper fuse and/or breaker arrangement and sizing since no fuses or breakers tripped.

SRS Draft Strategic Plan - This draft strategic plan should be finalized and issued by the end of this month. Notable success measures specifically identified in the strategic plan include:

- * Stabilize materials per DNFSB 94-1 and per the Phased Canyon Strategy.
- * Complete the Nuclear Material Processing Needs Assessment and revise the Phased Canyon Strategy to incorporate the results by spring 1998.
- * Complete plutonium immobilization demonstration (can-in-canister) by 2/2001.
- * Begin blend-down of HEU (25 MT) by 1/2001.
- * Begin operation of the Transfer and Storage Facility for spent fuel by FY2002.
- * Meet APT and TEF project milestones.
- * Complete transuranic drum retrieval project by FY1999.
- * Close 6 high level waste tanks by end of FY2002.
- * Produce 1200 DWPF canisters by end of FY2002.