

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 31, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
J. J. McConnell, Deputy Technical Director

FROM: R. T. Davis/ T. D. Burns

SUBJECT: SRS Report for Week Ending January 31, 2003

Americium/Curium: On Tuesday, the F-Canyon inventory of approximately 30,000 gallons of neutralized americium/curium (Am/Cm) solution was successfully transferred, without interruption, to H-Area Tank 51. The F-Area Tank 7 to H Area Tank 51 sludge transfer (intended to scour any Am/Cm hold-up from the inter-area transfer line) is scheduled to commence on Monday.

FB-Line Packaging and Stabilization: The FB-Line Packaging and Stabilization Project will provide the capability to stabilize plutonium oxide and package both metal and oxide in accordance with the DOE-STD-3013. Facility modifications, authorization basis modifications and operator training continue to support start-up of the outer can weld system in March 2003. The outer can weld system has been installed in FB-Line and operator training is on-going. This week, DOE provided comments on the weld qualification plan. Approval of this plan will allow WSRC to begin qualification of weld operators. The digital radiography system has also been installed in FB-Line and a 25 can qualification run for this system should occur next week.

To support on-going bagless operations, WSRC is pursuing use of one of the racks installed as a part of this project to store bagless transfer cans (i.e., inner 3013 containers). WSRC is performing an unreviewed safety question evaluation, developing procedures, and evaluating the impact on project activities to support the use of this rack. For the outer can weld system startup, WSRC plans to perform the contractor readiness assessment in late-February.

H-Canyon Ventilation System: On June 26, 2002, the Board sent a letter to the Assistant Manager for Environmental Management that discussed the potential for an unfiltered ground-level release during H-Canyon accident scenarios, especially seismic events. Compensatory measures are in place to address this issue. However, given the long term missions planned for H-Canyon, the Board noted that timely resolution of this issue was appropriate. Last week, WSRC issued the pre-conceptual Business Decision Estimate Range (BDER) package for a project to resolve this issue. The project would involve installation of fans and filters in the 3rd level of HB-Line that would exhaust into the warm canyon. The existing fans and filters located external to the canyon in building 292-H (the source of the potential ground level release) would be blanked. The BDER estimate for this project is between approximately \$12M and \$16.5M. The estimated project completion range is August 2006 to August 2008. WSRC has requested a DOE decision on whether to pursue this project by February 11, 2003. The site representative notes that the schedule for completion of this project does not appear to be very aggressive.