

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 12, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: J. S. Contardi/M.T. Sautman, SRS Site Representatives
SUBJECT: SRS Report for Week Ending January 12, 2007

Tank Farms: Contractor and Site Rep walkdowns have commented on the length of time that plastic containment huts, glove bags, and wrappings have existed in the field. (See 12/22/06 Site Rep weekly report). The contractor recently reviewed the containment program and is developing corrective actions to address the identified gaps. The actions should establish clear ownership over all facility plastic containment, improve the removal of the plastic at job completion, and better close deficiencies identified during walkdowns.

Standing Orders: The DOE Standard on standing orders states that long-term orders are relevant for several days, weeks, or months, but they should include a cancellation date. It also states that orders in effect for an extensive period of time should be incorporated into a procedure or company policy. Site procedures do not require a cancellation date and a review of high-level waste facility standing orders found several that had been around for years. For instance, the Defense Waste Processing Facility has a number of orders that were originally issued between 1992 and 1998. In addition, the Site Rep questioned whether it would be more appropriate to address lockout/tagout programs, shift briefings, response to control room alarms, high radiation area access control, etc. in facility-specific procedures that undergo a more rigorous approval process. Standing orders are often just approved by the operations manager. The contractor plans to review their standing order procedure and all of their standing orders.

Solid Waste Management Facility: The Site Rep observed culvert mining of unvented transuranic waste drums and walked down the vent and purge equipment. The Site Rep also saw the bulging drum (contains job control waste and 17.4 plutonium-equivalent curies) that is the subject of an upcoming response plan.

Inactive Facilities: The Site Reps observed operators in plastic suits and a crane open a culvert containing a process water deionizer in R Area. The Site Reps also walked down 690-N, where ~3 dozen reactor heat exchangers are stored nearby, and 728-N, a former decontamination facility. Both facilities contain contamination areas. Issues noted included incomplete radiation postings, radiological barricades lying on the ground, and a radioactive material area that was still posted although the radioactive material had been removed. These are being fixed.

Plutonium Operations: The Site Rep met with contractor and DOE representatives to discuss the latest revision of the Documented Safety Analysis for the K-Area Interim Surveillance project. The Site Rep raised several concerns relating to safety system functional requirements, control identification, and consistency with a Site level engineering procedure.

Tank 48: DOE personnel conducted a review of the Independent Technical Review for select processing technologies. Based on the DOE review, a specific technology will be selected for treating waste currently stored in the tank.