

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 12, 2001

**TO:** J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** D. F. Owen, RFETS Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** RFETS Activity Report for the Week Ending January 12, 2001

**Corrective Actions.** As reported last week, DOE-RFFO outlined certain safety issues in a letter to Kaiser-Hill resulting from a series of events and negative trends over the past several months. This week, Kaiser-Hill has been developing a corrective action plan to address the issues. Kaiser-Hill intends to finish the plan and review it with DOE-RFFO and, by request, senior DOE-EM management during the week of January 15<sup>th</sup>. (1-C)

**Inner Tent Chamber Operations.** The first contaminated glovebox was successfully size reduced by plasma-arc cutting in the second-generation Inner Tent Chamber in Building 771 this week. While delayed several weeks to complete modifications after the initial “cold” operations, this operation is an important milestone for RFETS in applying engineered controls for size reduction of gloveboxes and other contaminated equipment. (3-B)

**Building 771 Intakes Follow-up.** Since mid-December, an additional 3 individuals associated with the Room 186 operations have had confirmed intakes identified based on initial bioassay results (now 13 out of 14 individuals). Second round bioassay results have been received for 8 of the 13 individuals. For one individual, the result was below the decision level. Along with a known event occurring a few days prior to submitting the first bioassay sample, this indicates that the dose should be about 50 mrem for that individual. The other 7 second round results are consistent with the initial round indicating intakes prior to early October 2000, and also indicating that the doses should be well below 1 rem. Second round bioassay results for the other 5 individuals are forthcoming.

Due to problems at the laboratory in South Carolina processing the samples, the initial bioassay results for approximately 40 volunteers from other work groups within Building 771 have been delayed. All initial volunteer bioassay results are now anticipated to be in by late January. (3-B)

**Transuranic (TRU) Waste Management:** For some time, RFETS has been advocating that TRU waste containing contaminated, classified parts and shapes be disposed at WIPP (see the May 26, 2000 site rep. report). This would provide substantial reduction in waste preparation/declassification efforts at RFETS (e.g., crushing and size reduction in a glovebox) thereby reducing worker exposure and other risks. Efforts by RFETS, WIPP and DOE Headquarters have resulted in recent approval of the security plan for shipment and disposal of TRU waste containing such classified parts/shapes at WIPP. RFETS is proceeding with packaging of such parts/shapes for disposal at WIPP. (3-A)

cc: Board Members