

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 25, 2001

TO: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: D. F. Owen, RFETS Site Representative
SUBJECT: RFETS Activity Report for the Week Ending January 26, 2001

The site rep. will be out of the office on Friday. Staff member R. Kasdorf was at RFETS to review startup preparations for the Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System (PuSPS).

Corrective Actions. As previously reported, DOE-RFFO outlined certain safety issues in a letter to Kaiser-Hill resulting from a series of events and negative trends during the past several months. Kaiser-Hill continues to develop corrective actions. Near term actions to support resuming several operations related to material handling in Building 707 were presented to DOE-RFFO this week. This included actions to increase supervision, ensure procedures work as written, and reinforce worker roles and responsibilities. DOE-RFFO verified satisfactory implementation of the actions and other resumption preparations for glovebox survey and non-destructive assay activities and concurred with resumption. The Kaiser-Hill site-wide corrective action plan is still being developed. Other paused operations are expected to be resumed during the next few weeks.

Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System (PuSPS). The site rep. and staff reviewed RFETS preparations for startup of the PuSPS in Building 371. The primary focus was on the development and implementation of safety controls for the process. An addendum to the Building 371 Basis for Interim Operation (BIO) to cover PuSPS was recently approved. K-H has opted to break the PuSPS process into logical tasks and has developed job hazards analyses (JHAs) for each of these tasks. The staff also looked at training of operations personnel to support PuSPS operation. Some key points:

- the JHAs reviewed appeared to adequately cover the individual tasks but are being rewritten to provide a crosswalk of controls into procedures, postings, etc. as required by current RFETS work planning requirements;
- the PuSPS project is also developing a crosswalk of controls from the BIO addendum to support declaring readiness;
- the training program should provide suitable training for operations personnel on the PuSPS process, but staffing and training for two-shift operations will take a number of months after planned startup in late March;
- the staff is still reviewing the BIO addendum and raised certain questions.

There remains a significant amount of preparations needed before the Building 371 management can declare readiness for startup, now planned at the end of February. The staff will provide a separate report on this review. (3-A)