

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 11, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director
FROM: J. Kent Fortenberry / Joe Sanders
SUBJECT: SRS Report for Week Ending July 11, 1997

Asa Hadjian and Chuck Keilers were onsite this week reviewing geotechnical aspects of the Actinide Packaging and Storage Facility (APSF) and design aspects of the new In-Tank Precipitation (ITP) Safety Class Nitrogen System.

FB-Line Equipment Status -Recent site representative observations of the FB-Line reduction furnace operation noted what appeared to be an excessive number of equipment problems. A blower just returned to service from maintenance was unable to evacuate the reduction furnace, an accumulator required to operate the reduction furnace hydraulics was leaking excessively, a glovebox port identified as 'Do Not Use, Not Secure' obviously needed attention, and the reduction furnace pressure chamber temperature monitor was inoperable. These observations were discussed with both DOE-SR and WSRC to determine whether adequate resources were available, and if so, the reason for all the equipment problems. It appears that although funding for routine maintenance is available, there may be some effects due to prioritization within the NMSS Division (Nuclear Materials Storage and Stabilization). Recent reductions in staff, additional security requirements, and the H-Canyon restart effort all may have contributed to an increased maintenance backlog at FB-Line. DOE-SR is reviewing this issue.

H-Canyon Restart - DOE-SR has determined that H-Canyon is ready for Phase I operation involving dissolving and head-end of the K14.1 charge of Mk-22 spent fuel (i.e., the very low burnup K-Reactor restart charge). An Authorization Agreement has been signed, and DOE-SR's formal communication of their conclusion that H-Canyon is ready to restart will probably be signed Monday (7/14/97). However, restart will most likely not occur until later in the week, pending a secretarial briefing.

95-2 Implementation Review - Joe King is leading an effort to review the Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) Description and its implementation at SRS. This review will look at implementation of ISMS on the corporate level. Initial team training and development of Criteria and Review Approaches (CRAD) were accomplished this week. During the two weeks of 7/14/97 and 7/28/97, DOE-SR and WSRC staff will describe the Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) at SRS, and the review team will identify areas of interest, request relevant documents, conduct interviews, and observe relevant activities. The review team's report will be complete during the week of 8/4/97. Following this review, and likely included in the review team's report, will be the team's proposal for reviewing implementation of ISMS at the eleven priority facilities at SRS. DNFSB technical staff will be onsite the week of 7/14/97 to observe the team's review efforts.