

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 3, 2002

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 May 3, 2002

Tritium Activities: Last week, a TSR surveillance requirement was not met in Building 233-H (Replacement Tritium Facility). The facility is currently in a major outage to support construction work and tie-ins for the Tritium Modernization and Consolidation (TCON) project. All gas processing systems are in standby. The facility's Limiting Conditions for Operation require that the oxygen concentration of each glovebox be verified as acceptable on a daily basis while in either operations or standby mode. Readings were not taken for two gloveboxes last Thursday due to ALARA concerns regarding higher than normal activity in the rooms. Safety Basis impacts were not recognized until late last Friday, at which time an Unusual Occurrence was declared. Subsequent readings in these gloveboxes indicate oxygen levels are within specifications. This event emphasizes the need for increased vigilance with regard to protection of facility Safety Bases during periods of non-standard operation.

Accelerated Cleanup Activities: As a part of the Environmental Management cleanup reform initiative, SRS personnel have completed a draft version of the Performance Management Plan. This plan details the site's initiatives to accelerate cleanup activities to 2025 with an aggressive target of 2020. For FY 2003, the site is requesting an additional \$387M above the FY'03 President's Budget. With incremental investments in FY '03 to FY '08, DOE-SR and its contractors believe they can achieve several risk reduction and accelerated cleanup activities, including the following:

- Accelerated nuclear material stabilization activities (including F-Canyon and FB-Line closure) while maintaining a longer-term processing capability
- Completion of high level waste processing up to 20 years early with 1000 fewer DWPF canisters
- Consolidation of spent fuel storage to one storage basin
- Accelerated groundwater cleanup and solid waste program activities including accelerated transuranic waste shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

A red team review of the site's proposals was conducted last week. A final version of the Performance Management Plan is expected to be complete by August 2002.

Performance Indicators: As a follow-on to the DOE Executive Safety Conference in December 2001, the DOE-SR site manager and WSRC president volunteered to pilot a performance metrics system at SRS. In response to this charter and drawing on past INPO performance measurement experience, the site has developed a framework of performance indicators. The site intends to employ this framework locally to track safety performance and to focus resources in an efficient and effective manner. A workshop was held this week at SRS with participants from around the complex to explore the potential for exporting this framework of performance metrics across the DOE complex. Presentations to this end are scheduled for the upcoming DOE Executive Safety Conference next week.