

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 12, 2003

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 September 12, 2003

Plutonium Storage: DOE currently plans to store plutonium materials in the K-Area Material Storage (KAMS) facility and in Building 235-F. To support this mission and to facilitate shutdown of FB-Line, DOE plans to provide 3013 package surveillance capability and additional storage capacity (i.e., rack storage) in Building 235-F. The CD-0 (mission need) packages were submitted to DOE in May and June; however, DOE has not approved these packages. DOE is now developing an alternate funding strategy for these projects and additional delays are likely. The baseline early completion date for the 3013 surveillance project is July 2006. The project is now on a day-for-day slip pending project approval and funding.

DOE plans to de-inventory and shutdown the FB-Line facility by 2006. Until then, FB-Line would be used to handle any damaged or suspect containers. After FB-Line is shutdown and prior to completing the Building 235-F surveillance project, it is not clear what facility would be used to handle damaged or suspect containers. In addition, DOE will need to provide an interim container surveillance capability until the surveillance project is complete.

TCON Project: The management self-assessment (MSA) has been completed for the process modifications installed in Room 44 of Building 233-H. The process modifications were performed as part of the Tritium Facilities Modernization & Consolidation Project (TCON) and will provide both improved isotopic separation capability for hydrogen streams generated by the Tritium Extraction Facility and improved loading and unloading capability for hydride storage vessels.

The MSA team's review resulted in 13 Type-A (require closure prior to initiating contractor operational readiness review) and 76 Type-B (closure prior to contractor operational readiness review not required) findings. The final MSA report documenting these findings will be issued next week. Notable among the Type-A findings is a compatibility issue between the new hydride storage vessel loading/unloading furnace (8 kW rating) and its associated wiring and control components (6 kW rating).

WSRC continues to pursue corrective actions to address the MSA team's findings and expects to complete close-out activities on the Type-A findings by the end of next week. The contractor operational readiness review is currently scheduled to commence the week of September 22 with the DOE operational readiness review expected in late October.

FB-Line: Furnace testing and operator training continue in preparation for startup of the FB-Line oxide stabilization project. Problems with the furnace temperature monitors and control system have delayed the start of the DOE Readiness Assessment, which is now scheduled for October 6, 2003.