

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 19, 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 19, 2003

Staff members L. Zull and H. Massie were on-site this week reviewing high-level waste activities. The review focused primarily on the implementation of the new Documented Safety Analysis and Technical Safety Requirements for Concentration, Storage, and Transfer facilities. Discussions also covered recent lapses in operational performance and associated corrective actions, as well as the current status of dimethyl mercury control activities.

Building 235-F: DOE plans to store plutonium in both the K-Area Material Storage (KAMS) facility and in Building 235-F. As discussed last week, DOE plans to provide rack storage and surveillance capability in Building 235-F. In the Board letter dated June 12, 2003 and associated staff report, the Board expressed concerns about the adequacy of the Building 235-F safety basis to cover a long-term plutonium storage mission. This week, WSRC issued a safety basis strategy for the revision of the safety analysis for building 235-F. The revision will upgrade the analysis, content and format of the Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) to support the extended mission of the facility.

Goals identified in the upgrade include reducing the impact of safety basis controls on operational missions and appropriate reliance on engineered controls vice administrative controls. Many of the safety controls currently relied on in Building 235-F do not meet the standards identified in current DOE orders. The strategy requires that a backfit analysis be performed for all active safety controls. This analysis will ensure that controls can adequately perform their safety function. In addition, WSRC will perform an updated seismic qualification analysis for the facility. WSRC expects to implement the updated DSA in 2004 (i.e., before completion of the 3013 surveillance project).

M-Area Closure: Deactivation and Decommissioning (D&D) work on former reactor fuel and target production facilities in M-Area is progressing ahead of schedule. Building 313-M has been razed. Uranium and chemical contamination posed the primary challenges to building demolition. Concrete and debris are being shipped to the E-Area solid waste disposition facility for burial as low-level waste.

M-Area is the second area on-site to undergo significant footprint reduction activities. Razing of twenty-two buildings in the TNX area was completed ahead of schedule in July of this year. Additionally, WSRC has partnered with CH2M-Hill to apply the D&D experience from the Rocky Flats closure effort toward SRS closure projects.

SRS Contract: In support of the new SRS contract signed in June, WSRC has submitted a proposed Performance Baseline to DOE-SR detailing the cost and schedule of the agreed work scope. This Performance Baseline will be used to measure contractor progress and thereby determine fee awards. Both DOE-SR and an independent group (LMI Project Oversight) have completed their reviews of the Performance Baseline and provided comments to WSRC. DOE-SR expects that comments will be resolved and the Performance Baseline approved by the end of this month.