

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 3, 2004

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director  
J. J. McConnell, Deputy Technical Director  
**FROM:** J. S. Contardi SRS Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** SRS Report for Week Ending September 3, 2004

**Tritium Extraction Facility:** The Tritium Extraction Facility construction activities are more than 90 per cent complete. The project is fully funded for fiscal year (FY) 2005 with an additional \$20 million in carryover from FY2004. Over 50 per cent of systems have been turned over from construction to start up operations. Start up testing is ongoing and is scheduled to be completed by December 2005. Operators have been retained from Buildings 233-H, 232-H, and F-Canyon. F-Canyon crane operators have been acquired for remote operations which have not been previously used in tritium operations. Facility specific training will begin next week. The draft documented safety analysis should be completed by the end of next summer. The first shipment of tritium producing burnable absorber rods is also scheduled for late next summer.

**Building 235-F Limited Extent Surveillance Project:** The limited extent surveillance (LES) project will provide a reduced capability for 3013 surveillance of long-term storage of plutonium. Currently, the surveillance and stabilization function is provided by FB-Line. However, once FB-Line is deinventoried, this capability will be quickly lost. The LES project will need to be available when FB-Line is deinventoried, which is scheduled for September 2005. The current LES schedule will allow for slight acceleration of FB-Line deinventory. The LES project will operate until the integrated 3013 container surveillance and storage capability (CSSC) project is complete. However, a potential outyear funding shortfall could impact the CSSC schedule.

**Heavy Equipment Accident:** During tree removal at the P-Reactor seepage basin, a large construction front end loader overturned. The root ball of a tree was larger than expected and partially lifted and then rolled the front end loader when the tree was pushed over. The WSRC operator was wearing the prescribed personnel protective equipment, including a seat belt restraint, and was not injured. A previous accident on July 26, 2004, involving the loss of control of a trackhoe resulted in a worker fatality. Heavy equipment use on site has been suspended.

**Chromate Cooling Water System:** As reported last week, new pipe was installed to bypass a suspected leak site in the chromate cooling water system. This week a pressure test indicated that a leak still persists. More aggressive leak detection methods are being evaluated, but the potential for severe weather due to hurricane Francis may adversely impact the timely implementation of these measures. Without cooling water, no waste transfers involving Tanks 26 and 27 can occur including operation of the 2F evaporator. Near term impacts from the ongoing leak will affect the planned deliquoring of Tank 26 and may affect the scheduled transfer of evaporator feed from Tank 35 to Tank 26. Impacts to sludge batch washing could occur if the leak persists and evaporator operations are not able to regain adequate freeboard. The next sludge washing decant from Tank 51 is scheduled for early January 2005.