

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 4, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: J. S. Contardi, SRS Site Representative
SUBJECT: SRS Report for Week Ending February 4, 2005

Staff member Todd Davis was onsite this week.

Tritium Operations: During tritium recovery operations, an operator observed an increase in activity within a glovebox enclosure. A leak check of the system indicated leaks in the header coming from the Z-bed recovery. The leaks were found in the stainless steel header pipe and not at mechanical fittings or weld locations. During removal, the header physically broke into two pieces.

The header is functionally classified as production support and does not penetrate the glovebox. Material analysis of the failed header has begun. As a precaution, a similar header in another system has been replaced.

Inadvertent Transfer: During a recent transfer at the F-Area outside facilities, a mispositioned valve (i.e., not fully closed) resulted in an inadvertent transfer to a second F-Area tank. A mass balance for the system indicates that approximately 57 percent of the transfer was made to the wrong tank. Prior to the transfer, the position of the valve was independently verified to be locked-out in the closed position. Following the transfer, the valve alignment was reviewed and a valve was found that had several inches of the valve stem visible indicating that the valve was not fully closed.

Another inadvertent transfer recently occurred in H Tank Farm (Site Rep. weekly 1/14/05). In both cases, the required independent verification of the transfer path failed to identify the improper alignment. Previously, inadvertent transfers/siphons have been identified as a recurring event (ORPS report SR-WSRC-CLOSEGEN-2004-0004).

F-Area Closure: Closure activities for F-Canyon and FB-Line continue ahead of schedule. WSRC expects to complete FB-Line de-inventory within the next few weeks. Deactivation activities for both F-Canyon and FB-Line are expected to be complete by April 2006. The deactivation end states have been reviewed by both DOE-SR and CH2SRS personnel to ensure they are consistent with future plans for decommissioning. The Westinghouse Savannah River Company plans to maintain limited facility ventilation along with quarterly surveillance and maintenance entries. Following deactivation, the annual cost of maintaining the facility is expected to be less than \$3 million.

Sealed Sources: Following several recent events involving sealed sources, WSRC has initiated a programmatic review of the sealed source program. In addition, WSRC and DOE are considering proposals that would improve work planning for sealed source usage.