

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 11, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: J. S. Contardi, SRS Site Representative
SUBJECT: SRS Report for Week Ending March 11, 2005

Staff members Matt Duncan, Randy Robinson, and Rich Tontodonato were onsite for a review of salt waste processing. Staff member Dan Burnfield and outside expert Doug Volgenau were onsite for a review of the site radiological protection program. Staff member Jonathan Plaue was onsite for a meeting of the Materials Identification and Surveillance working group.

On Friday, the Secretary of Energy visited the Savannah River Site. The Secretary's visit entailed tours of the Defense Waste Processing Facility, F-Tank Farm, and the K-Area Materials Storage facility.

Fee Reduction: The Department of Energy (DOE) finalized the fee reduction for safety related incidents, near-misses, and the worker fatality in July 2004, which resulted in a Type A accident investigation. As indicated in the Notice of Intent for Fee Reduction (Site Rep weekly 11/19/04), DOE has reduced the Westinghouse Savannah River Company's (WSRC) fee by \$1 million.

Nuclear Material Stabilization: For fiscal year 2005, WSRC has met or exceeded all goals for nuclear material stabilization. Many of these materials were previously identified in the Board's Recommendations 94-1 and 2000-1 as legacy nuclear materials. Outlined below is a summary of the progress to date.

- Plutonium DOE-STD-3013 packaging: all plutonium metals and oxides have been packaged. A total of 919 DOE-STD-3013s have been produced.
- Low-enriched uranium blenddown: The blenddown project is well ahead of schedule with 1,233 containers filled. The project goal was 1,102 containers.
- Plutonium and uranium residues: Greater than 400 kilograms of legacy residues have been dispositioned, which is approximately 10 per cent more than the project goal.
- Spent nuclear fuel: WSRC has completed all spent nuclear processing for FY 2005. Approximately 2.8 metric tons heavy metal were stabilized through H-Canyon.

Old HB-Line Ventilation: Despite previous funding issues, WSRC operators have made significant progress on the old HB-Line ventilation upgrade project. Critical Decision-3 approval was received in early October 2004. Approximately 50 per cent of the new duct work has been installed and the high efficiency particulate air filter banks are onsite awaiting installation. Penetrations into the Warm Canyon have begun and are 25 per cent complete. The aforementioned funding problems will result in a slight delay in project completion.