

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 30, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: M.T. Sautman, SRS Site Representatives
SUBJECT: SRS Report for Week Ending December 30, 2005

Mr. Contardi was out of the office this week.

Organics: A team has been formed to develop a consistent safety strategy for dealing with the downstream impacts of organic solvent carryover from the Modular Caustic Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU) and the Salt Waste Processing Facility (SWPF). Affected facilities include saltstone, the Defense Waste Processing Facility, MCU, SWPF, and tank farms. One of the issues being examined is whether safety-related ventilation will be required in the saltstone vaults to avoid the buildup of flammable gases.

Salt Waste Disposal: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued their technical evaluation report for draft waste determination for salt waste disposal. The NRC staff concluded that there is reasonable assurance that the applicable criteria of Section 3116 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 can be met provided certain assumptions made in the Department of Energy's analysis are verified via monitoring. These assumptions fall into the categories of wasteform and vault degradation, the effectiveness of infiltration and erosion controls, and estimation of the radiological inventory. NRC requested that DOE develop proposed approaches that DOE will use to address these assumptions. NRC would then, in coordination with the State, develop a program by which NRC would monitor DOE's implementation of the approaches. Fifteen recommendations were also provided by the NRC staff.

cc: Board members