

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 24, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: J. S. Contardi/M.T. Sautman, SRS Site Representatives
SUBJECT: SRS Report for Week Ending March 24, 2006

Solid Waste Management Facility: This week the Site Rep observed a Facility Operations Safety Committee review of proposed transuranic waste culvert operations. The hazard analysis and control selection for these operations were appropriate. Inputs and assumptions were clearly identified and an institutional program has been established to ensure key assumptions remain valid as additional data is collected (e.g., percentage of drums measured with flammable headspaces).

In response to the positive bioassay (Site Rep weekly 3/17/06), the contractor held a critique to review pertinent information and attempt to identify a cause. Based upon a preliminary review, facility personnel believe that the intake was due to improper doffing of personnel protective equipment following a continuous air monitor alarm which occurred in late November 2005. However, until the investigation is completed, the presumed cause of the uptake will not be formally reported.

Salt Waste Processing Facility: The Site Reps attended a design status review. In addition, the Site Reps met with Parsons and Department of Energy personnel to discuss the assumptions and consequences of potential solvent fire and spill accidents at the Alpha Finishing Facility. The contractor will be conducting HazOp sessions for the next four weeks.

Pre-Job Briefs: A Site Rep review of the various procedure requirements for pre-job briefs noted some potential inconsistencies and what seem to be relatively high radiological triggers for when a pre-job brief is required. These observations were transmitted to the contractor and clarifications are being sought for various activity scenarios.

Transuranic Waste Remediation: Remediation activities are ongoing at the SWMF and F/H Lab and will be starting at the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) in the next month or so. Additional remediation activities may begin later this Spring at F Canyon.

The Site Rep reviewed the Plan of Action for the upcoming SRNL Transuranic Drum Remediation Project and walked down the work area. Minor comments were provided on the plan and some potential safety issues were noted. These are being addressed by the contractor.

Rec. 2004-2: The Actinide Recovery Process has been chosen to be one of four pilots in the complex where its accident analysis will be compared to the Department of Energy evaluation criteria. The review is to be completed by July.