

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 7, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: J. S. Contardi/M.T. Sautman, SRS Site Representatives
SUBJECT: SRS Report for Week Ending April 7, 2006

M. Sautman was off site this week.

Readiness Reviews: This week, the contractor concluded field activities for the Saltstone Production Facility readiness assessment (RA). Approximately 20 findings were identified during the review. The DOE RA will commence once the prestart findings are closed and the operating permits are obtained from the state.

The contractor operational readiness review (ORR) for Glass Waste Storage Building #2 was planned to begin next week. However, several findings observed during the management self assessment (MSA) indicate potential problems in multiple functional areas. In response, WSRC has extended the MSA and postponed the ORR until the findings are adequately resolved.

F-Canyon Deactivation and Decontamination (D&D): Earlier this month a skin contamination occurred while lead shot was removed from around a pipe (Site Rep weekly 3/3/06). The contractor has since reentered the facility, stabilized residual contamination, and reinitiated D&D activities. Based on suggestions from the site rep the contractor has developed improved controls and procedures to prevent recurrence of the event. The changes include a control to quickly stop the lead shot from draining out of the pipe casing and a procedural step to ensure the glove bag will permit unrestricted flow of the lead shot.

K-Area Interim Surveillance (KIS) Project: In order to comply with DOE-STD-3013, the contractor needs to implement a destructive evaluation capability by early 2007. The KIS project will fulfill this need for approximately two years until a permanent full scale project becomes operational. Recently, the contractor submitted the Safety Basis Strategy (SBS) for the KIS project to DOE. The SBS calculated significant unmitigated consequences (600 rem at 100 m) and proposes several safety significant (SS) controls to mitigate these potential consequences. Although the KIS SBS contains more detailed information than most SBS's, its usefulness is diminished since the project is well into procurement and construction.

Modular Caustic-Side Solvent Extraction Unit (MCU): This week, the site rep walked down the MCU construction site. Final design for the project has been completed and construction is approximately 45% complete. Within the next two weeks, the first process vessel is expected to be installed.

Old HB-Line Ventilation: Due to the potential for an unfiltered release from the old HB-Line ventilation system (Site Rep weekly 3/11/05), DOE directed the contractor to initiate a project to provide local ventilation and filtration. Recently, the contractor finished construction of the project, which was completed under budget and ahead of schedule.