

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 15, 2002

**TO:** J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** D. F. Owen, RFETS Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** RFETS Activity Report for the Week Ending March 15, 2002

**Recommendation 94-1.** As noted last week, DOE-RFFO had previously informed the DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM) that the May 2002 milestone for repackaging metal and oxides in DOE's Implementation Plan for Recommendation 94-1 would be missed. DOE-RFFO had projected completion by October 2002 assuming packaging of certain lower purity oxides as residues. DOE now plans to repackage these RFETS oxides into DOE-STD-3013 containers. DOE-RFFO now projects that the metal/oxide repackaging effort will be completed by January 2003 and has provided this schedule information to DOE-EM. (3-A)

**Recommendation 2000-2.** As reported the last few weeks, DOE-RFFO was conducting detailed (Phase II) assessments of the confinement ventilation and fire protection systems in Building 371. The Phase II assessment team provided the results of the assessments to RFETS management this week. The team noted ventilation duct-work holes and incorrectly installed sprinkler heads (see site rep. report of March 1<sup>st</sup>) and noted the need for improvements in implementation of the Technical Safety Requirement surveillances that are performed on these systems. The team also identified some inconsistencies with various system description information for both systems and minor discrepancies in matching actual fire suppression equipment configuration. The team concluded, however, that there was adequate operability and reliability of these systems based on the overall material condition, surveillance and maintenance of the systems found during the assessments. The team intends to issue their Phase II assessment reports containing their findings and recommendations during the week of March 18<sup>th</sup>. (1-C)

**Radiological Work Practices.** As part of follow-up to a recent staff visit to review radiological work practices (see site rep report of February 8<sup>th</sup>), the site rep. and staff held discussions with RFETS management on current efforts to improve radiological work practices. Efforts to improve monitoring of the radiological airborne environment for workers are in progress including use of additional portable air monitors and increased personnel breathing zone monitoring for decommissioning activities. Site-wide guidance on performance of air flow testing following reconfiguration of an area (due to decommissioning activities, wall tear-downs, etc.) has been revised and implementation is to be assessed by Kaiser-Hill in the near future. Results of DOE-RFFO and Kaiser-Hill evaluations of contamination survey practices following the recent uptake occurrence in Building 771 (see January 25<sup>th</sup> site rep. report) is to be provided to the staff.

Protection of hands and/or glovebox gloves while handling sharp objects or using certain cutting tools often relies on the use of cut-resistant gloves to prevent or mitigate the hazard. The site rep. recently inquired on the adequacy of site-wide requirements and guidance on this issue. Kaiser-Hill management responded to the site rep. and staff that site-wide requirements and guidance will be strengthened and clarified to match RFETS management expectations to use cut-resistant gloves when encountering such hazards. (1-C)