

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 4, 2000

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director
J. K. Fortenberry, Deputy Technical Director
FROM: D. F. Owen, D. J. Grover, RFETS Site Representatives
SUBJECT: RFETS Activity Report for the Week Ending February 4, 2000

Integrated Safety Management (ISM). While noting that safety performance needs to improve, DOE-RFFO declared to DOE-Headquarters that ISM has been implemented at RFETS. This declaration followed an evaluation to confirm the site ISM system met the seven implementation criteria specified by the Safety Management Implementation Team. RFETS will continue to improve the feedback and improvement programs. RFETS is also working to identify leading indicators of safety to identify and correct negative performance trends. (1-C)

Adherence to Safety Controls/Conduct of Operations. As discussed in the site rep. report of January 21, 2000, Kaiser-Hill submitted a response to a December 1999 DOE-RFFO Preliminary Notice of Non-Compliance regarding increasing problems with adherence to authorization basis (AB) safety controls and conduct of operations that occurred during late summer and fall of 1999. Late last week, DOE-RFFO issued a Final Notice of Non-Compliance to Kaiser-Hill on these AB adherence and conduct of operations problems noting a significant deviation from contract requirements in these areas and imposing certain financial penalties. DOE-RFFO, however, noted recent actions to improve adherence to AB safety controls and the improved performance evident during the past two months. DOE-RFFO challenged Kaiser-Hill to maintain that performance during the next three months at which time DOE-RFFO would reduce the financial penalty. (1-C)

New Contract for RFETS Closure. The new contract between DOE and Kaiser-Hill for RFETS closure was effective as of February 1, 2000. The contract contains substantial financial incentive for avoiding serious accidents or repeated violations of safety requirements. The contract also calls for an array of Government furnished services requiring support from DOE-Headquarters and DOE sites receiving nuclear material from RFETS. In discussions with the site reps., DOE-RFFO noted that failure to provide such services on schedule would leave DOE subject to change orders with potential cost impacts.

RFETS Recommendation 94-1 milestones are not explicitly discussed in the contract but are included in the Rocky Flats Closure Baseline referenced as the main project control/change management vehicle. Per the contract, Kaiser-Hill will update this baseline by June 2000, subject to review and agreement by DOE. The contract also states that DOE will provide a waiver or revision to the plutonium storage standard, DOE STD-3013, to allow for potential contamination on the outer surface of the inner container of the storage package. (3-A, 3-B)

cc: Board Members