

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 7, 2000

TO: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: D. F. Owen, D. J. Grover, RFETS Site Representatives
SUBJECT: RFETS Activity Report for the Week Ending April 7, 2000

Residue Processing. As noted last week, Kaiser-Hill has proposed to DOE-RFFO to stop salt residue and dry residue repackaging operations in Building 707 in April and December 2000, respectively, to support Building 707 deactivation. Kaiser-Hill also proposed combining the six remaining Recommendation 94-1 residue milestones into a single completion milestone. Those remaining milestones address salt, plutonium fluorides, sand, slag and crucible, ash, dry, and wet/combustible residues. The site reps. and staff discussed the proposed milestone change with DOE-RFFO personnel who indicated their intention to discuss with the Board a single residue completion milestone in May 2002. (3-A)

Building 771 Tap & Drain/Piping Removal. The DOE Implementation Plan for Recommendation 94-1 states that Building 771 process system piping will be removed immediately after system draining. This strategy was to minimize hydrogen gas concerns, joint and low point leakage, and take advantage of the high level of knowledge of the individual piping systems just after draining. Kaiser-Hill has a proposed a change to this strategy to allow piping systems to remain in place for many months after draining. The proposed strategy results from safety concerns due to restricted access, including interference from other piping systems, to complete removal of certain process systems yet to be drained. The site reps. discussed with DOE-RFFO the need to technically address the hydrogen gas, piping leakage and system knowledge factors in reviewing this proposed change with the Board. (3-A, 3-B)

Building 771 Glovebox Windows. The December 17, 1999, site rep. report discussed window failures in a Building 371 glovebox. Four windows had been partially or completely drawn into the glovebox following the displacement of retaining rings due to faulty installation. RFETS had corrected the deficiencies and verified that all windows were properly installed. At that time, RFETS had stated that the window design was unique to that glovebox in Building 371. During a tour of Building 771, a site rep. identified certain gloveboxes with the same window design. The site reps. discussed this with DOE-RFFO and Kaiser-Hill management who indicated that actions would be taken to identify all gloveboxes at RFETS with this window design and verify the proper installation of the windows. (3-B)

Public Interaction. The site reps. presented an update on Board activities to the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board. Topics discussed included recent Board Recommendations, Recommendation 94-1 risk reduction activities, glovebox size reduction activities, Building 371 operations, work planning, and conduct of operations. The site reps. answered questions concerning startup delays of the Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System, conduct of operations, and fire suppression systems.

cc: Board Members