

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 21, 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 21, 2000

Recommendation 94-1 Implementation Plan. As noted in last week's report, DOE-RFFO committed to propose to DOE-Headquarters a date for startup of the Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System. Based on the latest Kaiser-Hill schedule, DOE-RFFO proposed an October 2000 milestone for startup, with May 2002 remaining as the milestone for completion. (3-A)

Fire Protection. As also reported last week, the Board's staff reviewed aspects of fire protection at RFETS including a recent Justification for Continued Operation (JCO) concerning inadequate flow to filter plenum deluge systems in certain buildings. During the review, the staff questioned the ability of pumper trucks (as a compensatory measure) to supply the assumed flow referenced by the JCO. In discussions with the site reps., Kaiser-Hill engineering management stated that options are being evaluated to assure that pumper truck flow is sufficient, including performance of a flow test. Kaiser-Hill engineering management indicated that a path forward would be addressed in a JCO follow-up submittal due to DOE-RFFO by April 30. (3-A, 3-B)

Building 771 Deactivation. A plastic window on the top of a glovebox deformed inward 8 to 12 inches when a 300 watt halogen lamp was placed on the window to increase visibility in the glovebox. The condition was fortunately discovered in sufficient time to prevent a major breach and the spread of contamination. A similar, but not as severe, event was reported to have occurred in Building 771 a few years ago. A corrective action from that event reportedly required stands to be used for halogen lamps, however a stand was not used in the recent occurrence. Building 771 management has required that these portable halogen lamps be removed from the facility to prevent reoccurrence. Site-wide actions are being determined. (3-B)

Work Planning and Control. As noted previously (see site rep. report of March 24, 2000 and other referenced reports), the Board's staff has observed deficient implementation of the RFETS Integrated Work Control Program (IWCP). The IWCP governs RFETS implementation of Integrated Safety Management at the activity level. The deficiencies have been primarily in development of the Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) and implementation of identified safety controls. Site-wide changes to the IWCP to address these deficiencies became effective in early April, 2000. Late last week, Kaiser-Hill reported to DOE-RFFO on actions to ensure proper implementation of IWCP requirements. Key actions identified include establishment of IWCP points of contact for each major RFETS project, development of a qualification program for work planners, and training on a "model" completed work package (includes the JHA and work procedures). Not clearly addressed, however, are Kaiser-Hill plans for mentoring of work planning personnel during development of work packages for an appropriate period of time. The site reps. discussed this issue with DOE-RFFO and Kaiser-Hill management. DOE-RFFO intends to respond to the Kaiser-Hill report during the week of April 24, 2000. (3-A, 3-B)

cc: Board Members