

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 28, 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 28, 2000

Building 371 Operations. The pace of operations in Bldg. 371, as well as other buildings sitewide, were slowed in November and December 1999, due to problems with adherence to authorization basis (AB) safety controls (see site rep. report of November 19, 1999). Operations in Bldg. 371 were suspended in March due to programmatic deficiencies in multiple Basis for Interim Operation Administrative Control (AC) programs (see site rep. report of March 3, 2000). While Bldg. 371 has taken actions to improve AB adherence and is currently taking action to correct the deficiencies in AC program compliance, the building management does not consistently make conservative decisions in evaluating the impact of occurrences on the AB.

A recent occurrence related to construction activities for the Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System (PuSPS) provides an example of this. It appears that modifications to the electrical control system were not completed prior to removal of the system lockout and return of the system to service. During the followup fact finding meeting, the shift operations manager had to emphasize to the PuSPS project managers the need to conduct formal evaluations to determine whether any AC programmatic deficiencies occurred. Additionally, DOE-RFFO facility representative intervention was necessary to reinstate a formal lockout of the system.
(3-A)

Building 991 Operations. Unrestricted operations in Building 991 (activities related to TRU waste storage) had been suspended in September 1999 due to problems with conduct of operations and implementation of authorization basis safety controls (see site rep. report of January 7, 2000 and earlier referenced reports). In November 1999, DOE-RFFO had directed that approval for unrestricted operations would require passing Operational Readiness Reviews (ORRs). Limited waste drum movements and staging/shipping activities have been allowed in the facility during the past few months following completion of Kaiser-Hill Readiness Assessments. Implementation of the new Building 991 Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) controls/requirements has been in progress by Kaiser-Hill.

Late last week, DOE-RFFO approved a proposal that a Kaiser-Hill readiness review (termed an Independent Validation Review) focusing on implementation of FSAR controls/requirements be performed in lieu of full ORRs. DOE-RFFO will also conduct their own FSAR implementation review following completion of the Kaiser-Hill review. The DOE-RFFO action is based on recent improvements in competence of Building management/supervision and in conduct of operations during the authorized waste drum movements. The FSAR implementation reviews are expected to be completed by mid-May 2000. (3-A)

cc: Board Members