

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD**

August 18, 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 August 18, 2000

Mr. Grover was out of the Office Monday. Mr. Owen was out of the office Friday.

**Work Planning and Control.** As noted in our July 28, 2000 report, DOE-RFFO had asked Kaiser-Hill to identify the root causes for problems in implementing the RFETS Integrated Work Control Program, corrective actions to address the root causes, and specific plans for training and mentoring of work planning personnel. Kaiser-Hill has responded to the DOE-RFFO request and identified the root causes as a lack of line management acceptance of IWCP requirements (resulting in a failure to ensure compliance), complexity and prescriptiveness of the work planning process, and inadequate training and self-assessment of implementation. Key corrective actions identified are to revise the IWCP Manual, to improve IWCP training and to ensure the responsible managers leading individual work planning efforts are not assigned to too many concurrent efforts.

The Kaiser-Hill response does not clearly address plans or expectations for on-the-job mentoring of work planning personnel as requested by DOE-RFFO. The Board's April 25, 2000, letter on IWCP implementation forwarded a staff observation on this subject to DOE. DOE-RFFO is continuing to review the adequacy of the Kaiser-Hill response. The Board's staff has requested a discussion on the planned changes to the IWCP manual with RFETS personnel. (1-C)

**Building 906 Startup.** Building 906, currently a low level waste storage facility, has been undergoing upgrades to support a revised mission for storage of transuranic waste (see site rep. report of August 4, 2000). The Kaiser-Hill Operational Readiness Review (ORR) was completed this week and several findings are being resolved. The DOE ORR is expected to start the week of August 21, 2000. (3-A)

**Special Nuclear Material Shipping.** This week, RFETS hosted a meeting to discuss the path forward for shipment of nuclear materials from RFETS to Los Alamos National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and the Savannah River Site (SRS). The RFETS closure contract committed DOE to provide shipping containers and receiver sites to allow shipment of material offsite as early as October 2001 and no later than September 2002. Currently the schedule for SRS to modify an existing building to store plutonium contaminated uranium hemishells and DOE to certify the DT-22 shipping container for shipment of 79 plutonium-uranium composite materials may not support the contract. Delays in shipping could result in changes in planned storage and processing activities at RFETS to support the scheduled decommissioning of existing facilities and equipment. (3-A, 3-B)

cc: Board Members