

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 1, 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 September 1, 2000

Board Member Dr. J. Mansfield and staff K. Fortenberry, R. Tontodonato, and R. Kasdorf were on site this week.

Recommendation 94-1. DOE-RFFO has formally requested that Kaiser-Hill provide a recovery plan within two weeks detailing how the the Recommendation 94-1 Implementation Plan milestone for completion of ash processing by December 31, 2000 will be met. The milestone is at risk due to the reduced ash residue processing rates noted in last week's site rep. report and Kaiser-Hill's planning effort to halt ash residue processing in Building 707 by December 13, 2000. The remaining ash would be transferred to Building 371 for storage until gloveboxes are available and prepared to process it. (3-A)

Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System (PuSPS). DNFSB personnel discussed contamination control and monitoring modifications in the inner can welding fume hood discussed in the staff trip report forwarded by the Board's letter of April 25, 2000. In addition, the site reps. performed a preliminary review of the job hazards analyses for the system. This review identified numerous problems in the identification of hazards and controls for specific job steps. The staff will perform additional reviews of PuSPS modifications related to contamination control and monitoring and the implementation of activity level integrated safety management for PuSPS. (3-A)

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 DOE Operational Readiness Review (ORR) was completed this week with several findings identified. The major findings included a ventilation system single point failure that could lead to building pressurization, design code compliance deficiencies with the building lightning protection equipment, and deficient performance of engineering and nuclear safety functions. The site reps. will follow resolution and closure of the findings. (3-A)

Board Member and Staff Visit. DNFSB personnel toured general areas of Buildings 707 and 771 as well as the Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System(PuSPS) in Building 371. Recent DOE Headquarters activities to improve integration of complex-wide efforts for shipment of Special Nuclear Materials from RFETS and the latest path forward were discussed. The ongoing monitoring efforts for transuranic waste drum filters for drums stored at RFETS and subsequently at WIPP were also discussed. The substantial progress in deactivation activities for Buildings 707 and Building 771 were noted as well. (3-A, 3-B)

cc: Board Members