

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 3, 2000

**TO:** J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** D. F. Owen, RFETS Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** RFETS Activity Report for the Week Ending November 3, 2000

The site rep. was out of the office Monday through Wednesday to attend the Packaging Management Workshop hosted by DOE-EM at Argonne National Laboratory.

**Work Control and Work Planning.** DOE-RFFO issued a Notice of Penalty to Kaiser-Hill (in the amount of \$250,000, as provided by the RFETS closure contract) resulting from work control and work planning deficiencies evident in a series of incidents since July 2000. These incidents occurred primarily during deactivation and decontamination (D&D) activities in Buildings 776 and 771. DOE-RFFO stated that corrective actions from the earlier events were not effective in preventing recurrence of similar events and asked that Kaiser-Hill address the overall negative trend in work control site-wide. The site rep. will continue to follow Kaiser-Hill actions (see the October 13, 2000 site rep. report) to improve work control and work planning for D&D activities. (1-C)

**Packaging Management Workshop.** This workshop was arranged due, in part, to problems with obtaining certification of transportation packages for off-site shipment of various inventories of RFETS nuclear materials. The objective of the workshop (as indicated by the DOE-EM announcement letter) was to assist DOE and contractor personnel with understanding the DOE packaging management/certification processes and identify issues and problems. The workshop participants were also to review the existing work in the certification queue affecting DOE-EM missions and address prioritization.

Detailed briefings and discussions of the DOE packaging management/certification processes (including DOE-EM and NNSA review/certification processes) occurred during the workshop resulting in the participants identifying several issues or areas for improvement. Examples include stronger DOE advocacy for package certification efforts, specific planning and budgeting of packaging as a project product or deliverable, and increased, planned technical interchanges between applicant and reviewer/certification groups. There was little discussion, however, regarding existing work in the certification queue affecting DOE-EM missions and addressing prioritization. There was some discussion of the Memorandum of Agreement between NNSA and other DOE organizations that is under development to provide a mechanism for resolving certification priorities. Discussion of specific RFETS issues with certification of packages for shipping nuclear materials was limited to providing illustrative examples of problems.

DOE-EM personnel at the workshop stated their intention to review these issues with senior DOE-EM management and that action assignments to implement any improvements to the packaging management/certification processes would be forthcoming. (3-B)

cc:Board Members