

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 22, 2000

**TO:** J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** D. F. Owen, RFETS Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** RFETS Activity Report for the Week Ending November 24, 2000

**DOE-RFFO Facility Representatives.** Since January 2000, the DOE-RFFO Facility Representative (FR) program has lost or will soon lose 5 qualified FRs due to resignation from DOE-RFFO or promotion to other duties. Late last week, DOE-RFFO issued their Tri-Annual Assessment of the DOE-RFFO FR Program as called for by DOE STD-1063-2000, *Facility Representatives*. Consistent with the site rep. report of July 7, 2000, the Assessment noted that FR staffing is below the minimum required and does not provide adequate coverage of facilities per DOE STD-1063-2000. The report noted the current FR manning of 7 qualified FRs verses the minimum of 10 per DOE-STD-1063-2000. FR coverage of nuclear activities during second and third shifts is not being provided and FR coverage of activities in waste storage facilities was noted to be inadequate. The Tri-Annual Assessment also reports that several other aspects of FR program, particularly in training and qualification, do not meet DOE STD-1063-2000.

The DOE-RFFO Manager announced an interim organizational change to better utilize personnel with prior FR experience to help fill some of the gaps in FR coverage. DOE-RFFO will be sponsoring an independent Skill Mix Needs Analysis in December that will be considered in developing personnel actions and organizational changes anticipated in early 2001. (1-B)

**Feedback and Improvement.** In early October, the site rep. discussed with Kaiser-Hill and DOE-RFFO personnel how improvement actions in response to significant operational occurrences/trends are determined and implemented at RFETS. It appeared that full subject matter expert and/or safety program owner involvement was not being routinely applied to determine appropriate site-wide improvement actions. Following these discussions, DOE-RFFO has started a periodic review of selected operational occurrences/trends with Kaiser-Hill. The objectives of the review are to focus proper subject matter expert/program owner review of implications to site-wide requirements/guidance, training etc., and to ensure proper site-wide actions to preclude recurrence are identified. The first review was conducted by DOE-RFFO in early November regarding a recent beryllium exposure event during deactivation activities in Building 865. Several additional actions for Kaiser-Hill to consider/implement site-wide were identified during this interchange. The second of these planned periodic reviews in early December is to address a recent adverse trend in lock-out/tag-out deficiencies.

DOE-RFFO and Kaiser-Hill management discussed these reviews with Board members and staff this week. DOE-RFFO indicated the concept will be discussed by RFETS personnel at the upcoming Integrated Safety Management (ISM) Workshop in Richland. (1-C)

**Public Interaction.** The site rep. met with the staff of the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments to discuss site rep. activities. Major issues discussed include status of plutonium metal and oxide packaging under Recommendation 94-1 and ISM implementation at RFETS.