

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 15, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director
J. Kent Fortenberry, Deputy Technical Director

FROM: Todd Davis

SUBJECT: SRS Report for Week Ending January 15, 1999

Impact of Delays in the 9975 Shipping Container Re-Certification - As discussed in the RFETS Site Representative Activity Report for the week ending January 8, 1999, the re-certification of the 9975 shipping container has been delayed. Because RFETS can not currently use this container to ship higher plutonium concentration SS&C (i.e., greater than 20 Curies per container) for stabilization at SRS, the F-Canyon stabilization schedule will slip at least 1 to 2 months. If the re-certification is delayed beyond March 1999, the F-Canyon schedule will be delayed on a month-for-month basis.

RFETS is currently using 9965 shipping containers to transport lower plutonium concentration SS&C to SRS for processing in F-Canyon. However, because there are only about 20 of these containers available, F-Canyon is only operating at about 1/3 capacity. WSRC is pursuing whether the 9975 shipping containers (approximately 250) could be used to transport lower plutonium concentration SS&C until the containers are re-certified for the higher Plutonium concentration material.

The F-Canyon stabilization schedule was based on receiving the 9975 shipping container re-certification in December 1998 and the initial receipt of RFETS SS&C in these containers beginning in January 1999. Currently, the most optimistic estimate for container re-certification for the higher plutonium concentration material is March 1999; however, WSRC believes that pressure testing over the next 2 to 3 months may be required to resolve the EM-70 comments. This testing will likely delay the 9975 shipping container re-certification until at least July 1999. WSRC has considered processing other material at F-Canyon earlier than scheduled so that the canyon is fully utilized; however, WSRC is not sure they can accelerate material processing because authorization basis documents are not complete and physical preparation of the canyon is required.

Classified Material Processing at SRS - The classified material received from RFETS will be processed at FB-Line and F-Canyon. The current plan is to store the declassified metal in bagless transfer cans in the 235-F vaults until the material can be packaged into 3013 cans at APSF. However, WSRC is considering placing the declassified metal in bagless transfer cans inside 9975 shipping containers and then storing this material at K-Area. The K-Area safety analysis, which requires all material to be in 3013 containers in 9975 shipping containers, would need to be modified to accept this storage arrangement. While the schedule for processing this material is not included in the Recommendation 94-1 revised implementation plan milestones, WSRC has committed to complete this work by FY 2002.