

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 10, 1998

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: R. F. Warther, M.T. Sautman

SUBJ: RFETS Activity Report for Week Ending April 10, 1998

Conex Review. Rick Schapira and Steve Stokes were on site this week to review cargo containers and temporary storage at the site. The Staff and Site Reps toured nearly all the cargo container areas on site and entered about 25 of the approximately 850 on site. No significant hazardous materials were noted to be stored in these containers. During the tours, the Staff and Site Reps found numerous wooden crates stored outside, subjected to the weather, in poor condition, and noted that they have lost their water tight integrity. These issues were discussed with the K-H VP for Environmental Restoration who stated that he hoped to remove all these containers by the end of the FY. The Staff Site Reps did not determine if any were leaking because the contents were unknown, and the controls were not in place to open any of the wooden crates. The Staff and Site Reps noted that K-H does not have a policy regarding storage of wooden crates. However, RFFO issued guidance last week stating that wooden containers would no longer be permitted for use outdoors on site. The VP for Environmental Restoration stated that K-H did not have any plans to purchase or construct additional wooden crates for outside use. A complete trip report will be prepared that addresses other issues identified during the assessment.

Seal Sources. The Site Reps and Staff participated in a video conference with K-H regarding control of radioactive sources. The Site Reps previously responded to some claims that several thousand sources had been lost from the site. The actual number is 28, and all but one are extremely low curie content. The largest missing source is a Ba-133 source that is about .005 curies. In response to findings by the Site Reps and other information, K-H developed a source control program. Key elements of the program plan include appointing new personnel to manage the program, consolidating sources no longer used to a single facility, publishing an "amnesty" program to return previously unaccounted-for sources, and scheduling "round-ups" to proactively look for sources that may have been misplaced or never included in the source control program. K-H expects to have most of the actions implemented by 7/31/98.

B771 Activities. The Site Reps reported previously that tap and drain activities in B771 were stopped due to questions regarding implementation of the BFO and issues with hydrogen in some systems and components. Two significant events regarding tap and drain and restart of activities occurred this week. First, RFFO disapproved the K-H restart plan because of additional concerns over BFO implementation. K-H retains restart approval authority, but RFFO will provide independent oversight. RFFO also requested K-H to provide a lessons learned report following restart. Second, personnel in B771 have developed a preliminary project plan to remove piping from B771 immediately following tap and drain activities. This approach was provided in lieu of completing all tap and drain activities, then going back and removing the piping systems. The preliminary plan is well thought out and includes fairly detailed work plans for numerous activities as well as staffing resource needs. It also incorporates much more worker input into the planning process. This plan will be presented to RFFO during the week of April 13.

Site Drill. K-H conducted a drill this week simulating a spill of sulfur dioxide. Based on observations from the EOC, the drill went well. Personnel quickly quantified the size of the spill and calculated the potential effects on-site and off-site, then took actions appropriate to the magnitude of the simulated casualty. The annual site-wide exercise is scheduled for the week of April 27. The Site Reps and Board Staff will observe this exercise.

Shipments off site. Pit shipments to Pantex are expected to resume by the end of the month. RFFO and K-H have completed their reviews of shipping issues at the site, including the transportation index and expect to issue a report during the week of April 13. K-H has already initiated several required corrective actions, and expects to complete all corrective actions before the end of the week of April 20. K-H still hopes to complete all pit shipments to Pantex by the end of the year. Shipment of eU hemishells to Oak Ridge remain problematic. K-H has not placed much emphasis on this project because of the slow rates of eU hemishell decontamination, transportation issues, and Oak Ridge's priority emphasis on resumption of DP activities at that site. This will have to receive increased priority for FY99 if RFETS is to continue toward its goal of site closure.

CCA Qualification. The first Configuration Control Authority (CCA) qualification occurred this week. This position was established to replace the Shift Manager and Shift Technical Advisor (STA) positions within the facilities. Feedback from RFFO Facility Reps and the RFFO Training staff indicate that the qualification Board went well. The SSOC qualification program has improved significantly since senior management began sitting the qualification Boards.

cc: Board Members