

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 24, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director
FROM: J. Kent Fortenberry
SUBJECT: SRS Report for Week Ending December 25, 1998

The site office will be closed December 25 through January 1. There will be no weekly report for the week ending January 1, 1999.

Applicability of the Y-12 Potential USQ Concerning Aluminum Neutron Cross Sections - As a result of errors discovered at Oak Ridge concerning intermediate energy neutron cross sections for aluminum (see ORNL 12/22/98 Site Rep Weekly Report), SRS suspended handling operations on 12/23/98 pending review. To date, the SRS review has concluded that wet systems are not impacted and so normal fuel basin operations can continue. Also, SRS reviewed spent fuel staged dry in the H-Canyon basin and concluded that this operation can continue. Fuel handling of uranium/aluminum ingots and removal of new fuel from borated storage racks remains suspended pending further review. SRS expects to complete its reviews next week.

Revised 94-1 Milestones for SRS - On December 23, last minute changes to the SRS milestones in the 94-1 Implementation Plan revision added a potential two-year delay in the completion of the Actinide Packaging and Storage Facility (APSF). The previous commitment date for APSF completion was December 2001. Resolution of technical issues and incorporation of comments from several project reviews were estimated to require an additional 6 months. However, potential funding problems for FY2000 could extend this delay to as much as 2 years. The proposed 94-1 milestone revision now accommodates this 'worse case' delay by providing a committed completion date range of December 2001 to December 2003. If funding problems cause APSF completion to move from December 2001 to December 2003, the following dependent 94-1 activities would be similarly delayed:

The repackaging of pre-existing plutonium metal and oxide to meet the 3013 storage standard would be delayed from May 2002 to May 2004 (plutonium metal would still be packaged in the inner 3013 container using the FB-Line bagless transfer system).

The stabilization and packaging of solutions from dissolution of SRS plutonium residues would be delayed from March 2004 to March 2006 (conversion to oxide in the HB-Line might be completed sooner, depending on storage capacity).

The stabilization of Np-237 solutions would be delayed from June 2005 to June 2007, unless an alternate storage location is identified.

The stabilization and packaging of RFETS plutonium residues and scrub alloy would be delayed from May 2002 to May 2004 (conversion to metal and oxide would probably occur sooner, depending on storage capacity).