

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 27, 1996

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: J. Kent Fortenberry / Joe Sanders

SUBJECT: SRS Activity Report for Week Ending December 27, 1996

Stabilization of Mark-31 Targets - The last of the irradiated Mark-31's have now been retrieved from water storage basins, transported to F-Canyon, and charged into the dissolver. Completing the dissolution of these Mark-31 targets (scheduled for the week of 1/6/97) will satisfy a 96-1 milestone. The next feed to the F-Canyon dissolvers will be the damaged Taiwan Research Reactor and EBR-II spent fuel from RBOF. Following processing of this spent fuel, the F-Canyon will begin dissolving Sand, Slag & Crucible.

Automatic Diversion Valves for F-Canyon Cooling Water - Reducing the potential for release of radioactive material via a failed process vessel cooling coil has been reviewed by the technical staff in the past. In particular, upgrading the cooling water diversion valves for automatic operation has been the subject of about five staff trip reports:

June 14, 1994 - WSRC committed to implement automatic diversion of cooling water

August 9, 1994 - automatic diversion to be installed by January 1995

December 7, 1994 - automatic diversion to be installed by April 1995

February 21, 1995 - automatic diversion to be installed by July 1995

August 21, 1995 - automatic diversion to be installed by November 1995

Automatic diversion capability was finally installed for F-Canyon about a year ago, but after only about 3 months the function was bypassed because of spurious activations. Modifications are planned and/or underway to increase the reliability, but currently the automatic diversion function remains bypassed. This automatic function is not discussed in the F-Canyon BIO.

cc: Board Members.