

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 17, 1997

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director
FROM: R. F. Warther, M. T. Sautman
SUBJ: RFETS Activity Report for Week Ending October 17, 1997

Recommendation 94-3. During QA and delivery of the as-built drawings, Rocky Flats Engineers and Constructors (RFEC) discovered that the B371 attic supports (one of the IPP commitments) were not adequately installed. Two problems were identified. First, the bracing was not installed at the proper angle. Second, the anchor bolts were not fastened to the proper depth in the attic floor. K-H has stated that they will repair this problem and is discussing with RFEC and RFFO how repairs will be made. This problem likely negates the 9/30 performance measure and places the 12/31 commitment to the Board in jeopardy. K-H is negotiating with RFEC to determine how this will be corrected. Additionally, modifications to the deluge system may not be complete until spring 1998. The reason for these delays is that the scope of the project is larger than anticipated. K-H is reviewing how it could compress the current schedule to meet the 9403 IPP commitment.

B771 Endpoints. SSOC has completed its endpoint analysis for B771. Over one thousand end points have been established. SSOC plans to deactivate between five and ten rooms this fiscal year and is considering installation of a size reduction capability in the building. New management has been installed in this facility, and new watchstanders will begin applying for positions and qualifying for those positions in November.

Recommendation 94-1. The salt pyro-oxidation Readiness Assessment will begin October 20. The milestone was to have started operations by the end of August 1997.

RFFO and contractor management have increased management attention on the B771 tap and drain project in the last month. The "worst case" schedule developed by SSOC indicates that tapping and draining may not begin until mid-March - 1½ months past the milestone. The critical path is repairing the portable vacuum liquid transfer system because solution is being sucked into the pump. However, SSOC believes they can still meet the 9/30/98 milestone if they use three draining teams.

Meeting with EPA. The Site Reps met with the EPA to discuss RFETS' progress towards implementing Recommendations 94-1, 94-3 and deactivation of nuclear facilities. The meeting went well. EPA was very interested in the Board's views on risk at the site and progress toward reducing risk through these two recommendations. Progress toward deactivation was also discussed, especially for B779. Last week, CDPHE and EPA jointly signed a letter expressing concern with the B779 Decommissioning Program Plan (DPP). Deactivation of this facility has started, although according to the RFCA, decommissioning can not start until the DPP is approved. It is not clear how this will be resolved at this point and what effect, if any, it will have on deactivation.

cc: Board Members