

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 1, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director
FROM: J. Kent Fortenberry / Joe Sanders
SUBJECT: SRS Report for Week Ending August 1, 1997

Dan Burnfield, Jim Troan and outside expert Ralph West were onsite this week observing DOE's review of the implementation of Integrated Safety Management at SRS.

Further Americium-Curium Vitrification Delays - This week a new schedule was proposed by WSRC showing an additional 6 month delay in Am-Cm vitrification. The primary cause of this delay is the redesign of the melter offgas system needed to address offgas blockage problems. As you will recall, a 15 month delay was announced last fall following failure of a prototype melter. This previous delay resulted primarily from the need for additional development and testing of the melter system.

Proposed 94-1 Implementation Plan Milestone Changes - The following SRS milestone changes will likely be included in a 94-1 Implementation Plan revision.

- * Begin Am-Cm stabilization - delays due to implementation difficulties (see previous discussion)
- * Stabilization of SRS spent fuel and Neptunium solution - delays resulting from the recently recommended Canyon Utilization strategy
- * HEU to LEU and conversion of SRS spent fuel LEU to oxide - unable to establish schedule pending contract negotiations with TVA
- * K-Basin sludge consolidation and K- and L-Basin sludge removal - to be listed as "completed by alternate means" since the intent of these milestones, reduction of conductivity and chemistry control, has been accomplished

Sand, Slag & Crucible (SS&C) Dissolving at F-Canyon - Stabilization of the SS&C currently stored in the FB-Line vault will begin this September. SS&C repackaging, including sieving and slag crushing, will start in the FB-Line toward the end of August. Sorting and repackaging activities are part of the current FB-Line operations, but the use of a new slag crusher will receive special attention, including a recently completed Job Hazards Analyses. The repackaged SS&C will be transported to the F-Canyon for charging in the dissolver. F-Canyon dissolver cold runs for SS&C should begin around August 18 to exercise unique aspects of the SS&C dissolution process.

FB-Line Bagless Transfer Operations - WSRC has recently completed procedures for operation of the new FB-Line Bagless Transfer System. A WSRC Readiness Assessment should be completed next week. A DOE Readiness Assessment is scheduled to be conducted the week of August 8, and operations to package Pu metal in accordance with DOE Standard 3013 should begin the week of August 18.