

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 12, 2010

TO: T. J. Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: D. L. Burnfield and M. T. Sautman, Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Savannah River Site Weekly Report for Week Ending February 12, 2010

Mr. Gutowski, Mr. Butch, and the site reps reviewed the Integrated Facility Aging Management program and preparations for shipping spent fuel from L-Area to H-Area.

Operations: SRS continues to experience several radiological protection and conduct of operations events:

- **Savannah River National Laboratory:** A routine monthly survey of a clean break area found a chair with fixed contamination (20,000 dpm α /100cm² and 280,000 dpm $\beta\gamma$ /100cm²). Because this was the seventh contamination event since September (see 1/29/10 report), the Deputy Lab Director declared a time out for hands on radiological work. The time out exit strategy requires that: work group managers must review their radiological work areas and their radiological work personnel to ensure that they are prepared to resume work, line and Radiological Protection Department (RPD) managers walk down work areas to determine posting and radiological controls, and all managers of hands on radiological work perform at least one management field observation in February. Nine laboratories previously posted as radiological buffer areas were reposted as contamination areas.
- **Depleted Uranium Oxide (DUO):** Following the successful recovery of the breached DUO drum in F-Area (see 1/8/10 report), workers cleaned up the original location. However, the construction crew and RPD inspectors forgot that this activity was to be conducted under the recovery work instructions and radiological work permit (RWP). Rather than wearing two pairs of anti-contamination clothing and a respirator, the workers only wore a single pair of anti-contamination clothing and no respirator. During the cleanup, a RPD inspector found high contamination (140,000 dpm α) on the drum which used to sit below the breached drum. This exceeded the RWP suspension guide.
- **235-F Stack:** Management temporarily suspended work after a lack of three-way communications led to a worker's breathing air supply being inadvertently shut off.

Training: The site rep met with K-Area and SRNS training managers to discuss their Oral Board Improvement Strategy that was developed in response to the poor conduct of a recent shift operations manager (SOM) oral board (see 1/29/10 report). The facility manager instituted a formal qualification process for SOM and first line manager oral board members and restricted the membership to specific individuals. The site rep observed a good briefing by the SRNS training manager on the philosophy of oral boards that focused on how their questions are different from written examinations. In addition, all potential members will be required to participate in mock oral boards beforehand. The plan also lists the minimum topical areas to be addressed during oral boards. The training organization is revising the entire oral board question bank, which will then be approved by facility management. Training will also be reviewing and enhancing the requalification process. While the above actions are being implemented at K-Area initially, the SRNS training manager intends to implement many of these improvements across SRS.

H-Canyon: The site rep, DOE, and the contractor met to discuss the appropriate readiness review level and sequencing for the implementation of the upgraded Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) and the resumption of spent fuel dissolution and processing. The parties present agreed that a single Readiness Assessment would be conducted at the beginning to cover all three activities. That being said, the schedule for approving the DSA and having it implemented before spent fuel is ready is very tight.

Riggers size reduced the first wooden box that had been removed from a large steel box. (See 12/4/09 report). The site rep observed the detailed pre- and post-job briefings. The box's contents were in plastic bags that showed little deterioration and contamination levels were relatively low.