

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 17, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
J. J. McConnell, Deputy Technical Director

FROM: R. T. Davis/ T. D. Burns

SUBJECT: SRS Report for Week Ending January 17, 2003

Staff members Chip Martin, Bob Quirk, and Bill Yeniscavich were on-site this week to review the implementation of software quality assurance requirements for the Tritium Extraction Facility, the Defense Waste Processing Facility, and the Late Wash Facility. On Thursday, DOE-SR briefed the Board by video conference on the contents of the long term disposition plan for depleted uranium materials.

F-Canyon: In November 2002, WSRC submitted the F-Canyon Complex Deactivation Plan to DOE-SR for review and approval. This plan details deactivation activities to place the F-Canyon facility in a cold, dark, and dry state by 2006. Last Friday, DOE-SR provided comments on this plan and directed WSRC not to proceed with activities contained therein. However, DOE-SR requested WSRC to continue implementing the PUREX Operations Suspension Plan. This week, WSRC requested DOE approval to perform specific activities contained in the deactivation plan that will not impact the ability for F-Canyon to restart. Some of these activities include relocating site support for cold chemical makeup to H-Canyon, providing alternate cooling for the 235-F facility, and deactivation of old equipment that would not be needed for new facility missions. DOE will likely not take action on this request until February.

Tank 37 Activities: On January 11, 2003, Tank 37 was successfully placed in service as the drop tank for the 3H evaporator (site rep weekly 11/29/02). As part of the Recommendation 2001-1 Implementation Plan, DOE committed to have Tank 37 ready for service by December 31, 2002. The enhanced cooling capacity that Tank 37 will provide over the previous drop tank (Tank 30) should minimize evaporator downtime due to excessive waste temperature thereby increasing the operational availability of the 3H evaporator (site rep weekly 12/27/02).

Americium/Curium: This week, WSRC submitted their Readiness Assessment report, with closure documentation for all pre-start findings, to DOE-SR in support of their declaration of readiness to proceed with the transfer of americium/curium material from F-Canyon to H-Area Tank 51. On Friday, DOE-SR granted WSRC authorization to proceed with the transfer. Prerequisite operational activities in support of the transfer are on-going and will be completed over the weekend. Weather permitting, WSRC intends to begin the transfer on Monday (site rep weekly 1/3/03).

DWPF Outage: This week, efforts to remove Melter #2 from the Melt Cell and re-work guide plates on the melter frame to resolve seal-pot interferences were completed successfully (site rep weekly 1/10/03). Subsequently, Melter #2 has been re-installed in the Melt Cell with no further interference issues. Assembly and connection of jumpers continues.