

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 4, 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 July 4, 2003

WSRC Management: This week, WSRC submitted several proposed changes in key management positions to DOE-SR for approval. Mr. W. Johnson, currently the vice-president in charge of the site's closure business unit, would be promoted to executive vice-president of WSRC (i.e. deputy to current WSRC president Mr. R. Pedde). An outside consultant, Mr. J. Devine of Polstar Consultants, would take over as the new vice president in charge of the site's closure business unit. Mr L. Sain, currently with WSMS, would become the deputy to Mr. J. Devine, and would also lead the F-Area closure activities. DOE-SR is currently reviewing these proposed personnel changes.

Low-Curie Salt: Salt dissolution in Tank 41 is underway (site rep weekly 6/6/03). Preliminary indications are that efficient dissolution is occurring (i.e the ratio of salt dissolved to inhibited water added is high). WSRC intends to fill the tank to the level of the salt-cake (350") to avoid undercutting the salt and leaving unsupported salt chunks with the potential to damage the cooling coils from which they hang.

Current tank level is at approximately 320" with 220,00 gallons of inhibited water added. The target level of 350" is expected to be reached on Saturday, and the transfer of dissolved salt from Tank 41 to Tank 50 is scheduled to begin next Monday and continue through Thursday.

Once in Tank 50, the dissolved salt will be sampled to determine if it is clean enough to meet the DOE criteria for low-curie salt. These sample results will provide critical information about the technical viability of DOE's low-curie salt initiative.

Public Interaction: On Monday, a site representative briefed a Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) committee on a Board letter dated June 12, 2003. The letter covers the adequacy of the safety bases for the K-Area Material Storage facility, Building 235-F, and FB-Line. The staff has been reviewing plutonium storage facilities at SRS in response to Public Law 107-314, Section 3183, *Study of Facilities for Storage of Plutonium and Plutonium Materials at Savannah River Site*.

F-Canyon: This week, WSRC identified solids blocking the bottoms overflow line for the 8.5 evaporator in F-Canyon. The evaporator was not overflowing bottoms solutions as designed. Operators removed the overflow line jumper to investigate and noted a white solid material in the overflow nozzle. Samples of this material have been obtained and will be analyzed over the weekend. Investigation of the evaporator feed tank appears to indicate presence of organics. Samples of this material will also be evaluated to help understand the problem and to ensure safety basis controls to limit organics in the evaporator are maintained. Solvent washing and loop flushing in the canyon are on hold pending resolution of this issue.