

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 3, 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 October 3, 2003

**Low-Curie Salt Activities:** Review of the recently issued Tank 41 sample results has revealed a potential issue regarding National Environmental Policy Act coverage for low-curie salt disposition. The Salt Processing Alternatives Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) analyzed salt waste with actinide concentrations only up to Class A limits. Current plans are to process salt waste with actinide concentrations up to the Class C limit for on-site disposition in the Saltstone Disposal Facility. A new supplemental analysis will be performed to determine if the current plans are bounded by the impacts identified in the existing SEIS. A revised Record of Decision may be required.

**Plutonium Packaging and Stabilization:** As a part of the Recommendation 94-1/2000-1 program at SRS, WSRC is providing the capability to stabilize and package plutonium materials in the FB-Line facility. The first phase of this project started up earlier this year and included installation of a DOE-STD-3013 outer can welder (OCW), an OCW leak detector, a digital radiography system, and new storage racks. The second phase of this project includes installation of two high fire furnaces, modifications to the bagless transfer system, and fourth level storage racks. The furnaces will allow WSRC to heat plutonium oxide to 1000°C to ensure the moisture content will be less than 0.5 wt% in accordance with the 3013 standard. The bagless transfer system modifications are required to weld the taller inner cans that will be used for plutonium oxides.

This week, WSRC completed the contractor Readiness Assessment (RA) for startup of second phase operations in FB-Line. There was one self identified pre-start finding at the start of the RA which has since been closed. The RA team identified the following five pre-start findings:

- Corrections and clarification to several of the phase II operating procedures
- Revision to the Emergency Preparedness Hazards Assessment to incorporate the impacts associated with phase II operations
- Phase II procedure training
- Issues associated with the design of the transport pan funnel assembly
- Additional guidance to operators on proper place keeping in procedures during operations (operators inadvertently skipped a step during cold run activities because of inadequate place keeping)

Corrective actions have been implemented for all five pre-start findings. The DOE RA is scheduled to begin on Monday. A separate RA was conducted for the 772-F Central Laboratory Facility (CLAB) to cover laboratory support activities. One pre-start finding was identified during the CLAB RA and corrected by the facility.