

13DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 31, 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 31, 2003

Board Chairman, J. T. Conway, and Vice-Chairman, A. J. Eggenberger, were on-site Tuesday along with staff members J. K. Fortenberry, J. J. McConnell, R. E. Tontodonato, and J. Contardi. The Board and staff were briefed by site personnel on the status of radioactive waste disposition, nuclear materials stabilization and storage, and defense programs activities. Specific areas of interest to the Board included DOE plans for resolving the technical and regulatory issues currently hampering salt waste disposition, stabilization plans for excess plutonium that does not meet specifications for mixed-oxide fuel, and proposed changes to the NNSA-DP oversight model.

Staff members R. Rosen and D. Nichols were also on-site this week to attend a workshop on the complex-wide surveillance program for DOE-STD-3013 containers and observe the DOE ORR for the Tritium Facilities Modernization and Consolidation processes in Building 233-H, respectively.

Tank Farms: During a review of the Safety Significant ventilation system for H-Diversion Box-8 in preparation for next weeks' Board staff visit, a design flaw was identified in the power circuitry for the Process Vessel Vent system's low-flow interlock. Specifically, a non-qualified Uninterruptible Power Supply was relied upon for start-up of a back-up fan.

In response to this finding, the appropriate LCO was entered which prohibits transfers through the facility and proscribes agitation in the facility tanks. A Non-Conformance Report has been generated and a design change to correct the flaw is under development. WSRC expects to complete the re-design and implement the change over the weekend.

Tritium Extraction Facility: The TVA Watts Bar commercial reactor has gone critical with its first loading of Tritium Producing Burnable Absorber Rods (TPBARS). After 18 months of irradiation, these TPBARS will be shipped to SRS where they will await processing in the Tritium Extraction Facility.

H-Canyon: This week, WSRC completed examination of the fuel assembly that was dropped last week in the H-Canyon railroad tunnel (site rep weekly 10/24/03). The assembly was cropped approximately 1 inch short. This appears to have caused the assembly to disengage from the fuel bundle when removed from the shipping cask. The assembly will be re-bundled in a different position to ensure it remains secure. WSRC has developed a tool to inspect other bundles at L-Basin. All bundles will be inspected prior to shipment to H-Canyon.