

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 13, 2004

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: D. Grover and M. Sautman
SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending February 13, 2004

Sludge Retrieval and Disposition Project (SRDP): The project currently has the start of a readiness review for the North Load-Out Pit sludge scheduled for February 26, 2004. The schedule for startup is based on the assumptions that the submitted AB will be approved without any additional controls and the contractor will be the startup authority. However, the authorization basis (AB) still has not been approved in part because of the concerns mentioned in recent activity reports. In addition, DOE has not yet approved the contractor determination of the level of review necessary. This determination is complicated by how the authorization for startup of sludge operations being recalled from the site to Office of Environmental Management is affected by the change in project scope. (IV)

Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): This week PFP completed stabilization and packaging of plutonium items that were originally planned to be shipped to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for programmatic use. The packaging of these materials into DOE-STD-3013 compliant containers represents the completion of processing of all plutonium materials at PFP which fall under Recommendations 94-1 and 2000-1. PFP will now reweld 3013 containers which were identified to have porosity in excess of limits. This activity is expected to be complete in advance of the May 2004, commitment made by DOE in their February 5, 2003, letter. (II)

Spent Nuclear Fuel Project: The SNFP has resumed scrap processing and will ship a Multi-Canister Overpack (MCO) containing a scrap basket this week. However, due to numerous delays in initiating scrap processing as a full time activity, it is anticipated that scrap will become the limiting factor in completing the fuel removal from the K Basins. Initially the project plans to put a scrap basket in every other MCO. SNFP also has formed a team to evaluate the scrap process in an attempt to identify improvements which can accelerate the processing. (II)

233-S: The demolition of this facility has progressed to the point where the highly contaminated process hood building is being dismantled. The concrete facility, with contamination levels exceeding one million dpm/100cm², has had fixative applied over the contamination and is being cut into pieces with concrete saws. So far the roof has been removed, bagged, and placed on trucks. Fixative was then applied to the newly exposed surfaces. This work is being done without a containment enclosure. So far there has been no detected spread of contamination due to the cutting activity, although some contaminated paint chips from previous demolition activities were identified downwind as a result of high winds experienced recently. (II)

Cc: Board Members