

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 16, 2004

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 April 16, 2004

Mr. R.T. Davis was off-site this week from Monday through Friday. Mr. Davis traveled to the NNSA Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge, TN to review storage plans for neptunium oxide material originating from Savannah River Site. The neptunium is to be solidified in HB-Line, packaged into 9975 shipping containers, and sent to Y-12 for interim storage pending irradiation in the Oak Ridge National Laboratory's High-Flux Isotope Reactor to generate plutonium-238.

DOE-SR Management Changes: On Friday, DOE-SR announced several changes in the site federal management. A summary of these and other recent federal management changes are summarized below;

- Mr. Bill Spader will leave his current position as Assistant Manager for Cleanup Projects to take over as Assistant Manager for Closure Projects, which includes responsibility for F-Area closure activities, soil and ground-water remediation, and facility deactivation and decommissioning efforts.
- Ms. Alice Doswell, who was formerly serving as Assistant Manager for Closure Projects in an acting capacity, has been assigned to serve as the Deputy Assistant Manager for Waste Disposition Projects under Mr. Charles Hansen.
- Mr. Larry Ling will replace Mr. Bill Spader, in an acting capacity, as Assistant Manager for Cleanup Projects. A permanent replacement decision is expected to be made within the next 60 days.
- Mr. Kevin Smith has taken over Mr. Kevin Hall, who was serving in an acting capacity, as Assistant Manager for Nuclear Material Stabilization Projects. Mr. Hall will remain as Mr. Smith's deputy. Mr. Smith is a retired United States Air Force officer and will be responsible for H-Canyon, HB-Line, KAMS, 235-F, and L-Basin activities.

FB-Line Price-Anderson Penalty: On Monday, the DOE Office of Price-Anderson enforcement imposed a civil penalty on WSRC in the amount of \$206,250. The penalty was the result of an incident in FB-Line on July 29, 2003 in which three operators received radiation exposures in excess of the amount expected for the material characterization activity they were performing (site rep weekly, 8/1/03).

Breakdowns in the Integrated Safety Management System contributing to the exposure event included improper evaluation and communication of hazards, improper implementation of controls, and unacceptable conduct of operations as evidenced by a failure to follow approved procedures. Further tainting this incident was the fact that dose records were deliberately falsified by a job supervisor to cover-up the exposures. To their credit, WSRC management self-identified and reported the falsifications and took severe disciplinary action. Significant management attention is being focused on correcting operational problems in FB-Line to preclude recurrence of these types of incidents.