

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 5, 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 May 5, 2004

**Secretary of Energy Visit:** The Secretary of Energy, Mr. Spencer Abraham, visited the Savannah River Site on Friday. During his visit, Secretary Abraham announced that the Savannah River Technology Center has been designated as a United States national laboratory.

**Savannah River National Laboratory:** This week, the former Savannah River Technology Center has been conferred the status of a United States national laboratory. The new Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) will be the only national laboratory, out of the existing 12, under the sponsorship of the Environmental Management program. With its new designation, the SRNL will now be eligible to lead programmatic science missions of national scope. Additionally, the SRNL will be provided with discretionary Lab Directed Research and Development (LDRD) funding to pursue basic research and development initiatives not directly tied to ongoing programs or projects.

**KAMS:** This week, WSRC identified several 9975 shipping containers currently stored in K-Area Material Storage (KAMS) that do not comply with the Safety Analysis Reports for Packaging (SARP) requirements. In accordance with the KAMS Documented Safety Analysis, packages must comply with the SARP when they are received at KAMS. Documentation and performance errors were identified with the leak tests performed at FB-Line prior to shipment. In addition, three torque wrenches associated with this activity failed calibration. WSRC entered the Limiting Condition of Operation (LCO) for a damaged or unauthorized container and isolated the suspect containers.

WSRC is evaluating the containers in question to identify a path forward. While the actual safety impacts at KAMS may prove to be minor, the failure to meet safety basis requirements (i.e., comply with the SARP) is of concern. Particularly in light of similar problems with meeting SARP requirements in recent months (e.g., o-ring shelf life issues and over-torqued bolts). WSRC is developing corrective actions for the issues identified at FB-Line. Lessons learned will be factored into the operator training package that is being developed (site rep weekly 4/30/04).

**WSRC Workforce Restructuring:** In late 2003, WSRC commenced a workforce restructuring initiative with the nominal goal of better aligning the skill mix of its SRS workforce with the accelerated clean-up work emphasized in the latest site contract revision. As a result of this initiative, it was determined that 300 positions across the site workforce would be eliminated by March 23, 2004. This decision was announced by WSRC on January 22, 2004 and detailed implementation plans were submitted to DOE for approval. This week, WSRC announced that DOE has approved only voluntary reductions. The voluntary reductions account for only 140 of the total planned reductions. Because additional reductions would no longer be cost effective in FY04, they will not be pursued further in this fiscal year.