

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 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 July 16, 2004

Staff members A. Gwal and M. Moury were onsite this week reviewing electrical systems at the SRS tank farms. The staff team focused on the effects of aging on safety class and safety significant systems. In addition, staff members R. Quirk, W. Yeniscavich, and L. Zull were onsite reviewing the Tritium Extraction Facility (TEF) and tritium storage at SRS. This team focused on the TEF Worker Protection System, the TEF startup test program, and the status of the hydride storage vessel program.

F-Canyon: As noted two weeks ago (site rep weekly 7/2/04), WSRC identified issues with regard to radiological/work control during completion of an activity in the railroad tunnel at F-Canyon. This week, WSRC reported that air samples taken during performance of this job indicated an airborne activity of 30 DAC-Hrs. Although this area was not posted as an airborne radiation area, the personnel performing this job were in respiratory protection. However, the Person-in-Charge (PIC) that was observing this activity was only in a lab coat. The PIC submitted a routine annual bioassay sample a few days after the job. Processing of this sample is being expedited.

FB-Line: WSRC has completed over 150 oxide stabilization runs using the modified M-9 furnaces. In addition, almost 600 DOE-STD-3013 cans have been welded. FB-Line de-inventory is approximately 50% complete and should be finished well in advance of the September 2005 schedule.

Building 235-F: Consistent with the DNFSB report to Congress concerning plutonium storage at SRS, DOE has requested WSRC to perform a feasibility study on reducing the risk from legacy plutonium-238 in Building 235-F. The original WSRC schedule for this study was October 2004. Recently, DOE-SR requested WSRC to accelerate this schedule. The study will address the potential to remove or encapsulate the legacy material such that the remaining source term is less than approximately 40g Pu-238. WSRC has staffed the study team, performed facility tours, and identified potential methods for decontamination and encapsulation. WSRC expects to complete this study in late-September.

HB-Line: In Phase I, WSRC continues to dissolve Idaho National Environmental and Engineering Laboratory denitrator product. This campaign is scheduled to be complete in October 2004. After this material, only a limited amount of plutonium is scheduled to be processed in HB-Line Phase I.

In Phase II, WSRC has completed the corrective actions for all of the A findings identified in the contractor Readiness Assessment (RA). This week, WSRC conducted additional demonstration runs in preparation for the DOE RA, which is scheduled to begin on Monday.