

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 20, 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
J. J. McConnell, Deputy Technical Director
FROM: J. S. Contardi SRS Site Representative
SUBJECT: SRS Report for Week Ending August 20, 2004

Staff members Matt Duncan and Roger Zavadoski were on-site this week reviewing the ventilation system design for the Salt Waste Processing Facility. In addition, the staff team reviewed the progress of the high efficiency particulate air filter replacement project and Old HB-Line ventilation upgrades. Staff members Dan Burnfield, Don Owen, and outside expert Doug Volgenau were also on-site reviewing work planning activities related to decontamination and decommissioning.

Decontamination and Decommissioning: Under the current contract, which extends to the end of fiscal year 2006, 252 buildings are scheduled for decontamination and decommissioning. The 252 buildings represent over 3 million ft² in footprint reduction. To date, over 88 buildings have been successfully decontaminated and decommissioned. Building 247-F is the largest building in the current contract and contains significant radiological and industrial hazards. The facility has been divided into 82 individual zones, of which 24 have been completed.

Old HB-Line Ventilation Upgrades: The ventilation system for Old HB-Line has degraded to the extent that under certain accident conditions an unfiltered ground level release could occur (site rep weekly 3/19/04). A project to tie the Old HB-Line ventilation into the warm canyon has been initiated and CD-3 approval is expected in late September. Initial construction and procurement is expected to begin by the end of August. The total project cost is approximately \$9 million.

H-Canyon Waste Disposition: Processing of the remaining unirradiated Mark 22 highly enriched uranium targets will generate approximately 400,000 gallons of liquid waste. Since the targets were never irradiated, the waste does not meet the definition for classification as spent nuclear fuel. On Wednesday, DOE-SR notified the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control that the waste will be dispositioned through the Saltstone Production Facility. If the waste was sent to the high-level waste system, WSRC estimates that life cycle costs would increase by \$90 million and 37 additional Defense Waste Processing Facility canisters would be produced.

HEPA Filter Replacement Project: As a result of quality assurance problems at the Filter Test Facility (FTF), WSRC had suspended testing of safety related HEPA filters at FTF. In May 2003, FTF resolved the quality assurance issues and resumed filter testing. During the period when FTF was not operational WSRC had installed 407 safety related filters that were not tested at FTF. Thus far, 397 of the non-tested filters have been replaced. The remaining ten filters that require replacement are all in F-Tank Farm and should be replaced well before the scheduled December 2006 deadline.