

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 24, 2002

**TO:** J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director

**FROM:** D. F. Owen, RFETS Site Representative

**SUBJECT:** RFETS Activity Report for the Week Ending December 27, 2002

Site nuclear operations were reduced due to holiday schedules. The site rep. will be out of the office from Wednesday through Friday.

**Response to the Board Letter of March 19, 2002.** The Board's letter forwarded to the DOE Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM) staff observations in the area of activity-level work planning including DOE-RFFO's oversight of work planning at RFETS. In June, DOE-EM provided a response identifying actions addressing the observations. As reported on October 11<sup>th</sup> and September 27<sup>th</sup>, Kaiser-Hill had started a mentoring program to improve work planning but DOE-RFFO had made little progress in implementing their actions to perform proper oversight of work planning by Kaiser-Hill. The site rep. had requested a review of progress in these areas with DOE-RFFO and Kaiser-Hill management. It was found that while work planning mentoring is occurring in each of the major nuclear projects, the tempo of mentoring activity and quality of some of the mentoring review and feedback did not meet Kaiser-Hill management expectations. Regarding DOE-RFFO oversight actions, monthly, quarterly and semi-annual assessments of work planning as described in the DOE-EM response are now instituted and are being conducted; however, transmittal of DOE-RFFO assessment results to Kaiser-Hill is pending. DOE-RFFO and Kaiser-Hill management indicated to the site rep. that actions will be taken on these issues by early January. (1-C)

**Building 776/777 Authorization Basis - Proposed Deletion of Criticality Controls.** As reported on December 13<sup>th</sup>, Kaiser-Hill had proposed that the Building 776/777 Basis for Interim Operation (BIO) be revised to delete criticality accidents from the safety analysis and criticality controls from the BIO Technical Safety Requirements (TSR), including criticality accident alarms and associated TSR surveillances. Late last week, DOE-RFFO approved the Kaiser-Hill proposal subject to the condition that prerequisites identified by Kaiser-Hill for implementing the change are completed. The DOE-RFFO approval documentation is being provided to the staff. (1-C)

cc

Board Members