

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 19, 2002

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 19, 2002

Plutonium Shipments: On Monday, the Secretary of Energy informed Congress of his intention to resume shipment of surplus plutonium from Rocky Flats to SRS. Plutonium will be packaged in accordance with DOE-STD-3013 and will be stored in 9975 shipping containers in K-Area Material Storage (KAMS) until processed as a part of the plutonium disposition program. DOE also issued an amended record of decision for the Storage and Disposition of Weapon-Usable Fissile Materials Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Surplus Plutonium Disposition EIS to identify the cancellation of the immobilization project and identify storage of non-pit plutonium at KAMS. DOE plans to begin plutonium shipment from Rocky Flats no earlier than mid-May.

Recommendation 2000-2: As a part of the Implementation Plan for Recommendation 2000-2, DOE is conducting Phase I and II assessments of vital safety systems. At SRS, Phase I assessments were conducted on 229 systems. Concerns were identified with regard to configuration management, compensatory measures, and system and facility design descriptions. These issues are being addressed, in part, by the configuration management implementation plan. The SRS approach for Phase II assessments will include 3 main elements: stand-alone Phase II assessments; Phase II assessments as a part of other activities (e.g., Readiness Reviews or Facility Evaluation Board activities); and long-term assessments of vital safety systems as a part of on-going programs. DOE-SR currently plans to perform near-term stand-alone Phase II assessments of the F-Canyon ventilation system and the H-Area fire water supply system.

The F-Canyon ventilation system assessment was performed earlier this month and did not identify any major issues or concerns. The scope of the review included canyon exhaust fans 2 and 3 and associated dampers and ductwork. Proficiencies identified included operator and system engineer knowledge and preventive maintenance activities. Review team observations included issues relative to updating essential drawings, seismic qualification and supply fan interlock performance. The final report for the Phase II assessment of the H-Area fire water system should be complete by the end of April.

TEF Project: The NNSA Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, Dr. E.H. Beckner, has provided several key decisions with regard to the project's path forward, including authorization for WSRC to self-perform the balance-of-plant construction (site rep weekly 3/29/02). However, an important decision on scope reductions remains on hold pending completion of an additional NNSA-HQ review of the WSRC estimate-at-completion. The site does not believe that the cost savings (~\$4M) justify the potential negative impacts of the scope reductions.

On Tuesday, the NNSA type B team, led by Albuquerque Operations Office, commenced their investigation of the recent construction accident at the TEF site (site rep weekly 4/05/02). The injured worker remains hospitalized but his condition is improving.

EH-1 Visit: On Thursday, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety, and Health (EH-1), Ms. B. Cook, was on-site to discuss various site initiatives and policy issues. Site personnel made presentations on the safe mission essential philosophy and their newly developed performance indicators. Both WSRC and DOE-SR participants solicited assistance from EH-1 regarding HEPA filter testing policy and interpretation of on-site transportation requirements.