

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 29, 1999

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: R. Arcaro, Hanford Site Representative
M. Sautman, Hanford Site Representative

SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending December 31, 1999

A. Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP): PFP personnel conducted a visual inspection of the polycube containers inside the vault. Because of the high radiation fields (> 1 rem/hr), a robot equipped with a video camera was used. Mr. Sautman observed the inspection of several cubicles. In general, the food pack cans, filter paper, and stickers are in very good condition. Most cans are vented by affixing either coarse or air monitor filter paper over a hole in the can lid with a large fissile material sticker. In some cases, the presence of a vent or the condition of the filter paper could not be confirmed visually due to the lighting or viewing angle. Extra caution may be required when handling the containers discussed below to avoid spreading contamination.

- Rather than using the large sticker to affix the filter paper to the can lid, the filter paper was attached with just "scotch" tape on a few cans.
- A plastic bag was taped over the top of one can. The bag was probably used to contain loose contamination.
- The stickers may not produce a good seal because it is often peeling at the edges, has open folds extending to the edge, or because the hole was placed too close to the can lid rim. In addition, long exposure to high radiation fields may have affected the adhesive.(3-A)

cc: Board members