

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 11, 2000

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

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

**SUBJECT:** RFETS Activity Report for the Week Ending August 11, 2000

David Grover was out of the office all week.

**Plutonium Metal Size Reduction.** Building 707 has restarted plutonium metal size reduction operations with several items size-reduced to date (see last week's site rep. report). Senior facility management are required to monitor these operations full-time as an interim compensatory measure in response to the conduct of operations deficiencies in late June 2000. To date, they have noted satisfactory adherence to the revised procedure with appropriate stopping of operations when questions arise. Additional improvements to the process are being identified by operations personnel and are being considered for incorporation. (3-A)

**Special Nuclear Material (SNM) Shipping.** The DOE Office of Environmental Management has called a meeting at RFETS on August 17, 2000 to address a number of issues related to shipping of RFETS SNM. The meeting will involve organizations from across the DOE complex that have key roles in shipment of SNM from RFETS. The indicated purpose is to get a better understanding of RFETS schedule needs, shipping container procurement and certification issues as well as receiver site issues in order to determine paths forward for supporting off-site shipment of RFETS SNM. (3-A)

**Planned Building 374 Acid Neutralization Operations.** The Kaiser-Hill plans to receive and neutralize low-level aqueous waste solutions in Building 374 (as noted in the May 19, 2000 site rep. report) have been put on hold. A change in plans is likely due to delays in operational preparations, higher quantities of solutions and increased processing time than originally planned, and the apparent availability of a commercial vendor capable of neutralizing the solutions. Following solution neutralization at the vendor, the residual sludge would be shipped as low-level mixed waste to a disposal facility. Kaiser-Hill and DOE-RFFO are actively pursuing this option. (3-A)

**Public Interaction.** A site rep. presented an update on Board activities to the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board. Topics discussed included recent Board correspondence to DOE, Recommendation 94-1 risk reduction activities, development of engineered safety controls for glovebox size reduction, activity-level work planning and conduct of operations. The site rep. answered questions relating to startup of the Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System and conduct of operations at RFETS.

cc: Board Members