

July 30, 1999

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director
K. Fortenberry, Deputy Technical Director

FROM: M. T. Sautman, D. F. Owen, RFETS Site Representatives

SUBJECT: RFETS Activity Report for Week Ending July 30, 1999

Mark Sautman was out of the office Monday and Tuesday.

Recommendation 94-1. The following two milestones were met at RFETS this week:

- pyro-oxidize all high risk pyrochemical salts by July 1999 and
- drain six actinide systems in B771 by September 1999.

Two more actinide systems are currently being drained and RMRS thinks they might be able to drain up to an additional five actinide systems by the end of September. This is an impressive turnaround considering that just a few months ago this milestone was considered at risk. (III-A.1.a)

Planned TRU Waste Storage in Building 460. Storage of TRU waste (up to 28,000 55-gallon drums) is being considered in the highbay section of Building 460. The highbay section is separated by a fire boundary wall from offices for DOE-RFFO in Building 460. A DOE-RFFO team presented the results of a two-week study on the safety of the proposed TRU waste storage in Building 460. The team concluded that the proposed storage operations would not significantly change the accident risk to Building 460 personnel over that incurred from current site operations. The team also concluded that the radiological exposure to office workers, at full storage capacity, would be less than 20 mrem/year (well below the level at which personnel would be required to wear a dosimeter for exposure monitoring). It is noted that the storage strategy calls for storing TRU in highbay areas most distant from the DOE-RFFO offices thereby allowing for phased assessment of actual radiation levels in office areas. (I-A.3)

Y2K Preparations. RFETS conducted focused Y2K training and review of current Y2K contingency plans for designated Y2K response personnel, nuclear facility and site support services personnel. These efforts were focused on determining the necessary site preparations for postulated Y2K scenarios. Backup power, site manning and reliable communications during the Y2K event were among some of the many issues requiring further definition to support completion of Y2K contingency plans over the next few months. (I-A.2)

Site Operations Contract. The current RFETS site operations contract expires in June 2000. The Secretary of Energy announced that DOE is entering into negotiations with Kaiser-Hill to develop a new site operations contract to complete site closure by 2006.

cc: Board members