

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 18, 1999

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director  
J. Kent Fortenberry, Deputy Technical Director  
**FROM:** C. H. Keilers / R. T. Davis  
**SUBJECT:** SRS Report for Week Ending June 18, 1999

**Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) Inadvertent Pour** - Last week, the DWPF melter was inadvertently pressurized causing an unplanned glass pour. Consistent with WSRC practice, an empty canister was located beneath the pour spout, which limited the impact of the occurrence. Two maintenance procedures that affect the melter air inlet supply were being worked in parallel. When removing the lockouts for one of these procedures, the melter inlet air supply was not properly throttled. This increased the melter inlet air flow to greater than the off gas automatic control system could handle. In retrospect, WSRC recognizes that the two procedures should not have been performed in parallel. During the evolution, the shift manager identified the potential for melter pressurization but did not recognize that the procedure specified the incorrect order for cycling valves. WSRC is considering the need for a flow limiter to eliminate recurrence. (III.A.2)

**Year 2000 Compliance** - John Przysucha, representing the DOE Chief Information Officer, was on site this week to review the SRS year 2000 (Y2K) program including the status of safety-related systems (see site rep report 3/12/99). To date, WSRC has identified 40 safety-related systems that could potentially have Y2K failures. All but one of these systems are Y2K compliant with the remaining system scheduled to be compliant by July 31, 1999. Independent verification and validation of these systems is on-going and should be complete in August 1999. DOE intends to conduct a complex-wide Y2K drill on September 9, 1999 which will include manning DOE-HQ Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and site EOCs. The drill will be used to assess business continuity plans, zero day plans (e.g., procedures for the Y2K rollover), and reporting and communication capabilities. (I.A)

**WSRC Award Fee** - On Monday, DOE-SR informed WSRC that they had earned \$17.666M of the available \$20.725M contract award fee for the first half of FY 99 (i.e., 85%). The DOE-SR assessment was based on WSRC performance on the Annual Operating Plan and SRS focus areas, including safety. DOE-SR observed many positive trends, such as production rate of DWPF canisters; implementation of H-Tank Farm Technical Safety Requirements; improved technology development for AmCm vitrification; and retrieval, venting, and purging of TRU waste drums. For salt disposition, DOE-SR stated that, while the past failure has been deemed inexcusable, a disciplined and well managed evaluation process is now being executed to ensure a workable alternative technology will be selected. DOE-SR also expressed concerns about several activities, some of which have been mentioned in previous site representative reports (dates in parenthesis). These included delays in 9975 shipping container certification needed for Rocky Flats shipments (5/21/99); management attention on Replacement Evaporator startup activities (4/2/99); needed increased effectiveness of radiological controls personnel; needed improvements in fire protection system testing and maintenance (5/21/99); and the negative trend observed recently in conduct of operations and work controls (6/4/99). (I.A.4)