

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 11, 1997

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director
S.L. Krahn, Deputy Technical Director

FROM: R.F. Warther, M.T. Sautman

SUBJ: RFETS Activity Report for Week Ending July 11, 1997

Kasdorf and Blackman reviewed status of Recommendation 94-3 this week. Sautman was on leave.

Recommendation 94-1 Solutions. K-H plans to initiate a management review to drain the four remaining high level solution tanks in B771 in early August, probably 8/11. Tank draining will start in September, be complete in December and is on schedule. RFFO is assembling a team to review this activity for readiness. The liquid from these tanks will be processed through B371 CWTS by July 1998 contingent on availability of blending solutions. Tap and drain for B771 will begin in October 1997, and all liquids should be removed from B771 by September 1998. RFFO will also review K-H's readiness for the tap and drain activity.

Residues. The conference call scheduled for this week between SRS and RFFO to discuss SS&C feed requirements was canceled. K-H is drafting a letter to SRS to document their understanding of SS&C feed requirements and rationale for differences between SRS and RFFO specifications. One concern is that a requirement for RFETS to screen the sand, slag, and crucible (SS&C) residues through a 40 micron sieve prior to shipment would increase the dose to the RFETS workers with marginal utility to SRS when processing through the canyon. If the requirement to screen this material through the sieve remains, K-H likely will vitrify the SS&C as reported last week.

Safeguards Termination Limits. K-H provided a letter to RFFO outlining a strategy to request additional variances to STLs. K-H recommended that a series of prioritized variance requests be submitted to DOE-HQ. The first request would be for the ash residues, and the MSE and ER salts would be last. The advantage of this submission approach is that it provides a means to quickly obtain STL variances for those residues which are least controversial without linking them to approval of more controversial variances (e.g., salts). However, it should be noted that this issue requires rapid resolution. Notwithstanding technical uncertainties with the distillation process, K-H is at the point in the schedule where distillation equipment must be ordered and installed to meet current commitments, or the STL variances must be granted and the pipe component strategy pursued to achieve the \$100 million savings calculated by the Site Reps and substantiated by K-H.

Crimp and Seal. K-H and SSOC completed the management assessment for crimp and seal in B776 this week. The management review went very well. The job supervisor provided a detailed pre-evolutionary brief, including many "what-if" questions to the workers. The dry-run went smoothly with the Facility Manager (FM), Project Manager (formerly Risk Reduction Manager), and one of the SSOC VPs in attendance. The FM asked several questions during each step of the dry-run, all of which were answered adequately by the workers. Crimp and seal started on Thursday.

cc: Board Members