

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 16, 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director

FROM: R. T. Davis/ T. D. Burns

SUBJECT: SRS Report for Week Ending November 16, 2001

Board Visit: Board members Conway, Eggenberger, DiNunno and Mansfield, along with staff members Fortenberry, Tontodonato, and Ogg, were on-site this week. The Board met with DOE-SR and WSRC personnel concerning nuclear material stabilization and disposition, high level waste, software quality assurance, and Recommendation 2000-2 activities.

HB-Line Phase II: The DOE Operational Readiness Review (ORR) team for startup of plutonium solution stabilization completed their review this week. The team identified 9 pre-start findings, 9 post-start findings and 8 observations during the review. Pre-start findings included issues with Limited Condition for Operations (LCO) response plan approval, procedural inefficiencies, alarm response implementation, and criticality controls. WSRC is resolving these issues and has currently submitted closure packages for 6 of the 9 pre-start findings. The DOE ORR team recommends that HB-Line Phase II operations be authorized following closure of the pre-start findings.

Tritium Consolidation and Modernization Project: The WSRC Readiness Assessment (RA) team for restart of the modified Z-bed recovery system in Building 233-H (Replacement Tritium Facility) completed the last of their functional area reviews this week. Findings include incorrect labeling of system components and minor errors with procedures as written. Previous issues associated with maintaining adequate water trap temperatures have been resolved (site rep weekly 10/26/01). The final report is expected prior to the start of the DOE RA, which is scheduled for November 26, 2001. Facility start-up is currently scheduled for the week of December 10, 2001.

Tritium Extraction Facility: Construction activities continue on the building shell for both the Remote Handling Building (RHB) and the Tritium Processing Building (TPB). The site representatives observed concrete pours for two of the RHB interior shield walls this week. Completion of the RHB/TPB building shell is expected by August 2002. Subcontractor bids on the "Rest of Plant" (i.e., facility processing internals) were received and award of this contract is expected in early December.

L-Area Experimental Facility: Integrated system testing continued this week, with a third test melt performed this week. Completion of integrated testing and subsequent turnover to operations is expected next week. The project has accelerated the rather protracted schedule for completion of readiness assessment activities from June to May 2002 (site rep weekly, 9/07/01). However, the first irradiated test melt is not scheduled until October 2002.