

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 3, 1999

**TO:** G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director  
K. Fortenberry, Deputy Technical Director  
**FROM:** D. F. Owen, D. J. Grover, RFETS Site Representatives  
**SUBJECT:** RFETS Activity Report for the Week Ending December 3, 1999

**Building 991 Operations.** As noted in the site rep. reports of October 8, 1999 and November 5, 1999, operations in Building 991 (activities related to TRU waste storage) have been suspended due to problems with conduct of operations and implementation of safety controls. Due to the number and seriousness of the deficiencies, DOE-RFFO has required that contractor and DOE Operational Readiness Reviews (ORRs) be conducted to confirm readiness to restart Building 991 operations. DOE-RFFO intends to ensure that the scope of the ORRs are commensurate with the hazards in the facility and the need to independently confirm proper conduct of operations as well as implementation of safety controls required by the new Building 991 Final Safety Analysis Report and related Technical Safety Requirements. (3-A)

**Fire Department Outsourcing.** There has been a substantial loss of experienced firefighters from the RFETS Fire Department during the past few years with additional losses anticipated in the near future with the pending closure of RFETS. As an approach to address this issue, Kaiser-Hill has been working with local municipalities to determine interest in contracting out the RFETS Fire Department operations. The City of Arvada has shown high interest and, therefore, Kaiser-Hill is preparing to enter contract negotiations including working with DOE-RFFO on the requirements and conditions considered necessary for the contract. These efforts are expected to take several weeks. The key technical issue is ensuring nuclear facility authorization basis fire protection and response controls are properly adhered to following such a transition. (1-C)

**Size Reduction Technology Development.** There is a project to apply robotics technology in the size reduction of gloveboxes and related equipment in the Building 776/777 Complex. Initial design development work done by Oceaneering International and their team of subcontractors has been under review by RFETS. The initial design includes a group of enclosed, ventilated chambers for equipment load-in/prep., robotic cutting, and robotic waste bag-out functions. The design has been scaled back in overall complexity but will require more manual control than the automated system originally envisioned. A number of issues have been identified by RFETS in areas such as subcontractor work integration, fire protection and ventilation capacity. The design is to be completed by February 2000, a vendor demonstration performed by May 2000, and installation completed at RFETS by June 2000. (3-B)

**Interactions with the Public.** The site reps. held discussions with a representative of the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board on the Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System (PuSPS) in Building 371 and the robotics development project for size reduction in the Building 776/777 Complex. Issues related to startup of PuSPS and basic design concepts evolving in the robotics development project were discussed.

cc: Board Members