

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 9, 1998

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director
FROM: R. F. Warther, M. T. Sautman
SUBJ: RFETS Activity Report for Week Ending January 9, 1998

Salt Pyro-oxidation. Operators bagged in 4 cans of salt Thursday and prepared a charge for the first two cans Friday. Furnace operations were not able to start because poor planning delayed completion of prerequisites and because the salt contained many crucible shards. Operators had to remove the shards with tweezers to prevent damage to the stirrer.

B771 Tap and Drain. SSOC is trying to resolve issues raised by the Board staff in a recent videoconference. First, they are developing a crosswalk to make sure that applicable controls in 3 related Activity Control Envelopes (ACE) are addressed. Second, they are developing a matrix to show where the Job Hazards Analysis (JHA) and ACE controls are implemented. Third, they are developing criteria for choosing the appropriate methods for draining, collecting, and storing the solution. Fourth, they are performing JHAs for each system to make it clearer which controls apply to each system compared with the previous generic JHA. The staff will review these items when they are available, especially the JHAs.

Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System (PuSAP) Installation. BNFL briefed RFFO on 1/7 regarding the status of the PuSAP installation in Broomfield. Acceptance of the system by DOE is now scheduled for 2/20/98. Some of the documentation for the system may slip beyond this date. The furnace has become the critical path for successful installation. BNFL modified the design of the inner case for the furnace to ensure no leaks occur during the increased number of cycles (now >500). BNFL is now receiving status reports twice per week from Raytheon (the contractor at the Broomfield facility), and will provide another brief to RFFO at the end of January.

Decommissioning. The Site Reps attended a planning meeting on D&D for the site. The site has proposed the following schedule:

B886. The Decommissioning Operations Plan (DOP) was submitted to DOE in January. Submit the Project Execution Plan (PEP) to DOE in April. Begin decommissioning in May pending funding.

B779. Submit the PEP to DOE in January. Begin decommissioning in February.

B771. Submit the DOP and PEP to DOE in February.

B776. Deactivation started in December 1997. No schedule for the DOP or PEP.

The Pu facilities continue to be on the critical path for site closure. Until residue stabilization is completed, D&D personnel will not be in a position to initiate activities in some of the former production facilities. K-H intends to D&D other facilities until the Pu facilities are ready. K-H is currently decommissioning B123, one of the original buildings at the site.

Meetings with the Public. The Site Reps reported in its November 7, 1997 weekly report that the CAB requested quarterly updates on Board and staff activities at RFETS. The Site Reps provided a verbal update on Thursday. The activities discussed at the CAB meeting are included in the Board's strategic planning documents.

The Site Reps also met with Dave Abelson (Staff assistant to Congressman David Skaggs) to provide an update on issues of interest to RFETS. Topics included performance vs. safety, off-site shipments, the Board's December 8 94-1 letter to DOE. The Site Reps informed Mr. Abelson that the Board was planning a visit to the site on January 21, and invited him to attend. An agenda and the Board's 94-1 letter were provided.

cc: Board Members