

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 13, 1998

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director
FROM: R. F. Warther, M.T. Sautman
SUBJ: RFETS Activity Report for Week Ending March 13, 1998

B771 Tap and Drain. The Site Reps observed a limited scope management review for purging the oxalic acid system and restarting draining activities. Although the authorization basis modifications and process for purging were acceptable, it was determined that B771 was not ready. The venting and purging procedure contained many errors, including one section deemed unusable, and the procedure had not been walked down by the core team. The Site Reps agreed with this conclusion.

Residues. Los Alamos has provided K-H a list of requirements that must be satisfied before they will accept, treat, and disposition up to 16,000 kg of RFETS salts that cannot be disposed at WIPP. Many of the requirements are issues mentioned in the Board's December 8 letter to the Secretary of Energy: residue EIS ROD, enough shipping containers, and open/demonstrated shipping lanes to SRS and WIPP. Other requirements include direction from the SOE, necessary resources, and stakeholder concurrence.

B779 Management Review. K-H completed its review of B779's readiness to proceed with D&D activities. The following deficiencies were noted:

- The facility drill program needs improvement. Better controls are required during drills.
- Knowledge of the Work Control and USQ screening programs is weak.
- Personnel are not familiar with the details of the AB.
- Controls for activities are contained in multiple work instructions.
- Management needs to take a stronger role in implementing a lessons learned program.
- The Beryllium program is not clearly established in the facility. Although over 800 samples have been taken in B779, this may not prove to be an adequate number. Additionally, the controls used to ensure workers are protected against the hazards of Be do not appear to be fully understood by all workers.
- Workers' level of knowledge is weak in some areas.

On a positive note, the Management Review Team found that worker involvement was outstanding for this project, and believes the workers are committed in completing this project safely.

In addition to the Management Review that occurred this week, RFFO reviewed the new Building 779 AB document. RFFO identified the following issues: (1) Storage of Low Level Waste (LLW) (i.e, storing LLW outside) is not adequately addressed, (2) LCO requirements for the Plenum Deluge system are required and (3) Industrial Hygiene & Safety should be included as an Administrative Control Requirement (ACR). These issues should be resolved by March 17, 1998.

Recommendation 94-3 Upgrades. RFFO tasked K-H and RFEC to retorque all the attic bolts to 100% of the specified torque value. RFFO based this decision on discussions with the vendor for the fasteners. This should resolve the attic fire support seismic issues, including placement and torque values.

cc: Board Members