

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 18, 2001

TO: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: D. F. Owen, RFETS Site Representative
SUBJECT: RFETS Activity Report for the Week Ending May 18, 2001

Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System (PuSPS). The DOE Operational Readiness Review (ORR) for PuSPS in Building 371 was completed last week and the ORR report was issued this week. The ORR team concluded that PuSPS operations can be safely performed following resolution of several pre-start findings. The pre-start findings include ORR team issues noted in the May 4th site rep. report regarding level of knowledge by operations personnel, conduct of abnormal event drills, and radiological control program implementation. The pre-start findings also address the site rep. and staff observations noted in the May 4th report regarding criticality postings, supervisory oversight during initial operations, contamination control on oxide convenience cans, and causal evaluation of certain Kaiser-Hill ORR findings.

As part of resolving the pre-start finding on conduct of abnormal event drills, Building 371 conducted a drill demonstration related to PuSPS this week. The site rep. observed the drill simulating a glovebox glove tear and resulting room airborne contamination after an operator complained of chest pains and then collapsed from an apparent heart attack. Improvements in Building 371 radiological control response including limiting and controlling contamination spread were noted by RFETS controllers/evaluators and the drill was deemed satisfactory. The site rep. has asked for additional information, however, on an approximate 2-3 minute delay due to security considerations of a Building 371 Emergency Support Team member (the first responder) in entering the PuSPS room and attending to the victim.

Kaiser-Hill has been preparing corrective action plans for the DOE ORR findings. DOE ORR Team members will be leading the DOE review of the corrective action plans and subsequent closure of the pre-start findings. RFETS management projects that closure of pre-start findings will not be completed until early June. (3-A)

Work Planning and Control. One of the areas of emphasis in the Kaiser-Hill Site Safety Improvement Plan (see the April 20th site rep. report) is to improve implementation of work planning and control at RFETS. The site rep. met with DOE-RFFO and Kaiser-Hill personnel to discuss efforts to improve training of work planning personnel on proper implementation of the RFETS Integrated Work Control Program (IWCP). The site rep. noted that recently developed IWCP training materials did not appear to include illustration or emphasis of key concepts/past problems with IWCP implementation nor call for focused, practical exercises to teach proper implementation of the IWCP process (particularly for performing activity-level hazard analysis). Rather, the training materials appeared to be largely a series of excerpts from the recently revised IWCP Manual to be delivered in lecture format. Kaiser-Hill IWCP management indicated that they would review the content of the IWCP training and address the site rep. observation. (1-C)