

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 14, 2001

TO: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director

FROM: D. F. Owen, RFETS Site Representative

SUBJECT: RFETS Activity Report for the Week Ending September 14, 2001

Nuclear Operations. RFETS nuclear operations were suspended on Tuesday as part of the heightened security posture in response to national security concerns. Most nuclear operations were resumed by Wednesday afternoon. Friday was an Alternate Work Schedule day off for most of the site.

Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System (PuSPS). The contamination check of a just-welded inner can that is performed by PuSPS personnel every shift has continued to show no contamination on the outside of the inner can. The site rep. has observed effective implementation of contamination control measures prior to transfer of the metal ingot cans and oxide convenience cans to the packaging system. These measures (e.g., careful loading of oxide into convenience cans and can wipe-downs) were put in place in June in response to DOE Operational Readiness Review findings and staff observations on PuSPS operations (see site rep. report of June 8th). (3-A)

Requirements Management for Closure Sites. DOE-RFFO and the DOE Ohio Field Office (DOE-OH) have recently made a joint request to the DOE Office of Environmental Management regarding application of new DOE Orders, policies, guidance, etc., to closure sites. DOE-RFFO and DOE-OH requested that such issuances not be automatically applicable to closure sites, but instead be applicable by exception as approved by senior DOE Headquarters management. Revised DOE Orders, policies, guidance, etc., are also intended to be covered by this request per site rep. discussions with DOE-RFFO management.

Pending action on this request, DOE-RFFO has placed a temporary hold on new/revised issuances being applied to the RFETS Closure Contract. This joint DOE-RFFO/DOE-OH request has been provided to staff. (1-C)

cc: Board Members