



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

JUN 14 1999

The Honorable John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

Dear Mr. ^{John} Chairman:

With this letter I am pleased to report early completion of one of the commitments found in the Department's 94-1 Implementation Plan. The closure package for this commitment, as described in the Department's interface manual, *Interface with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board* (DOE M 140.1-1A), is enclosed. The following commitment is proposed for closure:

311 Stabilize Rocky Flats residue IDC 333 - July 1999

We continue to closely track progress on all Recommendation 94-1 commitments and will keep you and your staff apprised of our progress. If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff call me on 202/ 586-5151.

Sincerely,

David G. Huizenga
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Nuclear Materials and Facility Stabilization
Office of Environmental Management

Enclosure

cc w/ enclosure:
M. Whitaker, S-3.1



ROCKY FLATS FIELD OFFICE WEEKLY REPORT

April 28, 1999

I. Schedule

Name: Jessie Roberson, Rocky Flats Field Office
Event: Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement Principals' Meeting
Location: Denver, CO
Date: May 7, 1999

Name: Jessie Roberson, Rocky Flats Field Office
Event: Field Managers' meeting
Location: Las Vegas, NV
Date: May 12, 1999
Acting: TBD

II. Key Departmental News

Visit on Potential IAEA Vulnerabilities (Rocky Flats): On April 29, staff from the Defense Treaty Inspection Readiness Program, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, will visit Rocky Flats for a *scoping meeting* in advance of a Department of Defense (DOD) vulnerability assessment on strengthened safeguards inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The Protocol for Additional Agreements for the United States, which calls for enhanced access by the IAEA for safeguards inspections, was approved by the IAEA Board of Governors in June 1998 and awaits ratification by the U.S. Senate. The U.S. Protocol provides for enhanced data submission to the IAEA, enhanced access to the Site, and the taking of environmental samples, except where such data or sampling would divulge information of national security significance. The DOD is concerned that this enhanced access may divulge information relating to DOD work-for-others activities at DOE sites. This vulnerability assessment is intended to satisfy those concerns. Depending on the outcome of the scoping meeting, the vulnerability assessment may be canceled.

III. Work on Secretarial Initiatives

Accelerated Closure of Sites

Pondcrete Radioactive Waste Removed Ahead of Schedule (Rocky Flats): On April 19, Rocky Flats met a major milestone in its plan for accelerated site closure by shipping the remaining 186 cubic meters of pondcrete offsite, completing

shipment of the total 13,469 cubic meters. The accomplishment meets a Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement requirement 13 months ahead of schedule.

Audit of Salt and LECO Crucible Repackaging Process: The Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site passed the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's audit (with New Mexico Environmental Division's observation) during the week of April 12 with no significant findings. The Site received high marks for significant improvements, quick corrective actions, interface, integration, and proactiveness. The Environmental Protection Agency will conduct an oversight audit of these processes during April 27-29.

Completion of DNFSB 94-1 Commitment (Rocky Flats): Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board 94-1 Implementation Plan commitment number 311 to stabilized residue IDC 333 was completed on April 21, well ahead of the July 1999 commitment. A total of 2.8 kg of IDC 333 (calcium metal) was stabilized through the Building 559 laboratory. During processing, 1.1 kg of material was discovered to be ash residues vice calcium metal. The mislabeled material was relabeled and will be processed along with other ash residues.

Building 779 Decommissioning (Rocky Flats): Glovebox removal is nearly complete with 4 gloveboxes remaining out of 134 originally in the facility. One of the gloveboxes will be shipped to Los Alamos and the other three will be size reduced. Contaminated ducting removal has started in Annex A room 150 and Room 218 in Building 779. Some predemolition work has begun on Building 729 including cutting on the roof in preparation for roof panel removal.

Site Shipment of Tanks and Gloveboxes (Rocky Flats): The Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site shipped 8 gloveboxes and 16 solution tanks to Florida International University (FIU) and Sandia Labs. For FIU, the shipment consisted of 11 tanks and 5 gloveboxes for use as equipment demonstration units. The FIU provides these mock-ups for technology research efforts and for commercial vendors to demonstrate new technology innovations. Sandia received 5 tanks and 3 gloveboxes for a D&D robotics and cutting technology demonstration.

IV. Press Inquiries

Column on Protection of Classified Material (Rocky Flats): A writer/researcher for syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, contacted the Rocky Flats Field Office April 21 for information related to a column that is being written related to protection of classified material.

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Cobalt-60 Story (Rocky Flats): A *Rocky Mountain News* reporter is working on feature story on a Cobalt-60 source that will soon be removed from Building 779 in preparation for the building to be demolished.

V. FOIA Requests


Rocky Flats: FOIA request was received via the Headquarters FOIA Office on April 20. The request is from an individual who is seeking 6 items of information, which may include procurement information on 12 specific projects that are being done by the contractor's subcontractor(s) at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site.

Rocky Flats: FOIA request was received via fax on April 22. The request is from an individual seeking 11 specific items of information concerning the Health Effects and Clinic Services at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site with respect to DynCorp's Solicitation No. DYN-BMW-706083.

VI. Grants, Economic Announcements and Publications

VII. Climate Change

VIII. Disaster Assistance


Jessie M. Roberson
Manager