

Robbins, Jan

From: Schommer, Ruth
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2002 8:26 AM
To: Robbins, Jan
Subject: FW: CDPHE 776 tour, 5/14/02

For AR 776

-----Original Message-----

From: Smiley, Cathy
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2002 6:51 AM
To: Schommer, Ruth
Subject: CDPHE 776 tour, 5/14/02

For Project Files.

Cathy Smiley
T707D X7956
Fax 4756

-----Original Message-----

From: Hopkins, Ted
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2002 2:11 PM
To: Auxier, John; Blush, Ed; Casias, Lonnie; Chandler, Gary; Crocker, Mark; Cronin, Robert; Dahlgren, Steven; Ferrari, Mike; Hall, Patti; Holmes, Nancy; Johnson, Michael; Kerridge, Jeffrey; Smiley, Cathy; Smith, Adam; Sproles, Wayne; Starkey, Robert; Utrecht, Greg; Vaughn, Terry; Waggoner, Cory; Walker, Randy; Zachary, Mark
Cc: Baker, Thomas; Cathel, Bob; Hicks, Carolyn; Lesser, Richard; Szydlowski, Tom; Trice, Conrad; Zbryk, Kathy
Subject: FW: CDPHE 776 tour, 5/14/02

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Kray, Edd
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2002 7:41 AM
To: mark aguilar@RFFO; donald.owen@rfets.gov; Gunderson, Steve; james.hindman@state.co.us; Hopkins, Ted; denise.onyskiw@state.co.us; Pizzuto, Victor; Schuetz, Gary; steve.tarlton@state.co.us; Dahlgren, Steven; Ferri, Mark; david.kruchek@state.co.us; Nishimoto, Gregg
Subject: CDPHE 776 tour, 5/14/02

On Tuesday, May 14, 2002. I toured building 776/77 accompanied by Ted Hopkins, KH Environmental Mgr.

I first reviewed the building radiological conditions diagram in the entryway to the area. It showed the majority of the building as below 2.0 mR/hr. A couple areas still had higher levels, including 12.8 mR/hr in room 134 (near waste drum storage) and 4.8 mR/hr remaining in one section of room 154 (molten salts process; due to high Am holdup).



ADMIN RECORD

B776-A-000097

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We looked at room 154 and the molten salts area. One or more crews were doing decon on the interior of gloveboxes 505, 506 and 507. The crew was using the standard 3 stage decon solution used by the building. The stages are differentiated on the basis of pH, a neutral stage, an acid stage and a basic stage. Enough solution is used so that a thin layer of standing solution was present on the bottom of the box. One crew member was cleaning the insides of the leaded glass windows, pretty much like any window washer anywhere else, using a squeegee and the sudsy decon solution. Of course, the main difference is that it was being done inside the box using the GB gloves. After wiping and squeegeeing, the contaminated solution is picked up on rags which are disposed of as TRU or TRU mixed waste. Being leaded glass, the windows will be removed and disposed-of separately from the gloveboxes (an unfortunately hazardous operation, necessitated by regulatory waste management and disposal criteria)

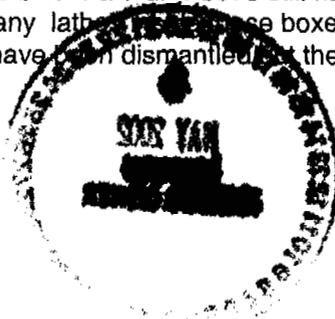
Observations showed that the solution was doing a visibly very effective job. Completed windows were remarkably clean visually. Deconned glovebox walls were shiny bare metal. This is compared to undeconned windows and walls which started off being covered with years of dirty deposits containing plutonium and americium. Of course actual completion is not measured visually, but rather by way of holdup measurements via gamma spectroscopy.

In the parallel glovebox line (box 495) another crew was removing residual equipment from the box. The equipment is "taken apart", size reduced within the box, any sharp ends are taped over, and then it is bagged out into the appropriate waste disposal drum.

We walked over to set 64, the "infamous supercompactor" in progress this quarter. One crew was bagging out pieces of trash at the traditional "exit-end" of the box. Considerable future work is anticipated in removal of the compactor, At this point just removing the hydraulic oil is a problem because the enclosure walls do not provide good access to drain points. Later I got to watch the D&D manager struggle with an understanding of the old blueprints, because the text is in German and he had no idea of what it was specifying. Some decon will be needed within the enclosure but the project manager does not believe there will be an extensive effort required to get to SCO standards.

We observed work on the glovebox sets, 4 and 5, in room 131A. I watched one team remove a regulator from the outside of a box in set 4. The regulator had several thin copper pipes attached and I watched the procedure and controls used for separating the piping while avoiding the potential for an airborne release. The crew did the pipe cut in the immediate proximity of a portable airmover vacuum head pulling any release away from the workers and into a filter unit.. As soon as the cut of the piping was made the ends were surveyed and taped up. An RCT was present continually performing surveys and assuring the lack of any release to the workers breathing zones. A CAM was nearby as was a sampling head for a movable air sampling unit. The work crews in 776 have developed control methods and expertise in D&D which needs to be shared with the rest of the DOE complex. When they are done here in under 4 years, their expertise will be invaluable throughout the rest of the complex where they can act as instructors while others learn their skills. They should write a book on what they're doing.

On set 5 , we watched another crew use the RF-B777 devised drum dump box to unload and bag out equipment from GB 619. This is a portable glovebox segment, on wheels, which can be moved to bagout points, temporarily attached to a GB and used to quickly and safely transfer trash equipment from the interior of the box to a drum. Set 5 still has lots of equipment to dismantle and remove. There were many lathes in these boxes in this set. Much of the upper segments of the lathes, motors etc., have been dismantled but the bases still remain for removal.



In room 430 we looked at a number of gloveboxes off-line and awaiting removal from the building. I noticed one packaged differently in an opaque yellow material vs the routine clear plastic. The D&D manager explained that this was the first use of this material and it offers several advantages. It is more readily available, cheaper and more durable. It does carry the disadvantage of not being as fully fireproof as the other material and due to this additional spacing requirements are applied to stored packages within the buildings.

After discarding our respirators, dressing-out and exiting the "area". Ted showed me the trench in room 150 where they will begin using a bacteriological solution to attempt to dissolve oils and sludges (uncontaminated). The "bugs" should be set in place today and it is anticipated that it will take several months to fully digest the oils and sludges. Temperature and conditions will be recorded daily. Maximal activity should not be reached until warmer weather conditions arrive in summer.