

JUL 10 1998

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

SUBJECT: Reservoir Storage in Highly Invulnerable Encased Safes (HIVES)

On April 15, 1998, Defense Programs personnel presented to Drs. Eggenberger and Kouts of the DNFSB, a plan and schedule to relocate tritium loaded reservoirs in long term storage in Building 234-H and Vault 217-H to HIVES in the 217-H Vault by March 31, 1999. This plan included the procurement and installation of additional HIVES in the 217-H Vault as well as relocation of stored reservoirs from Building 234-H (Room 275) to the 217-H Vault as space becomes available. There will normally remain as part of operations, a limited inventory of reservoirs staged in Room 275, to support production activities. This limited inventory will be monitored and is normally expected to be less than 500 reservoir equivalents.

To communicate progress toward the projected March 1999, completion date, the enclosed performance indicator has been developed. Should any of the assumptions used in this projection change or facility performance not meet expectations, we will inform you promptly of the impact to the March 1999, commitment.

Please direct any questions to me or W. J. Brumley at (803) 208-3688.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed by
Greg Rudy**

Greg Rudy
Manager

AMNS:WJB:cil

RA-98-0007

Enclosure:

Performance Indicator

cc w/encl:

J. Sanders, SR, DNFSB

bc w/encl:

P. Pizzariello, DP-42

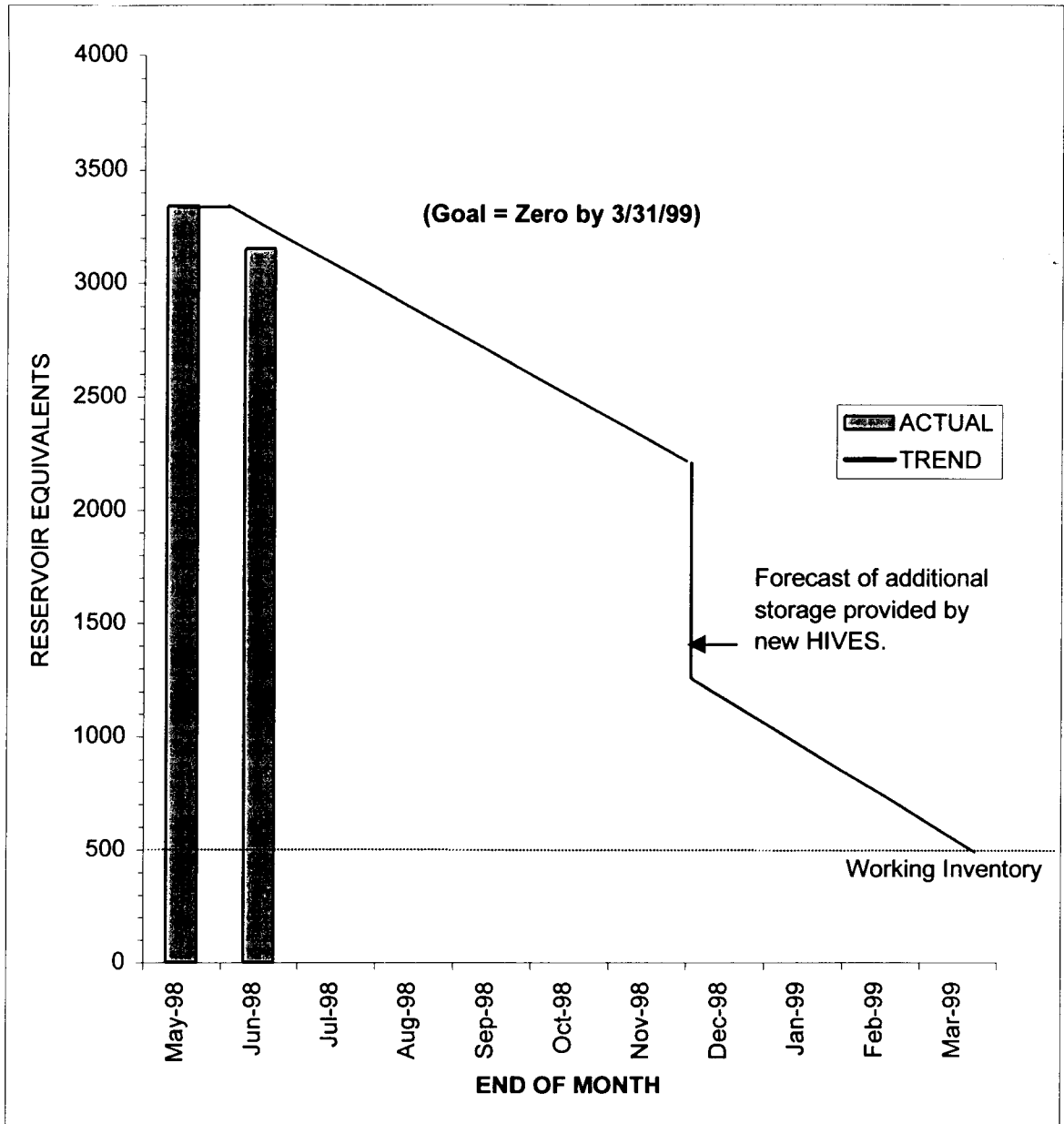
M. Worley, EH-9

bc w/o encl:

AMNS Reading File

Manager's Reading File
DOE Mail Control

TRITIUM-FILLED RESERVOIRS IN VAULT STORAGE OUTSIDE OF HIVES



GOAL: To track progress toward elimination of extended storage of tritium reservoirs in Vault 217, outside of HIVES. The goal is to eliminate storage of reservoirs outside of HIVES by 3/31/99.

BASIS: Data represents all reservoirs stored in Vidmar Cabinets and on carts. Assumes an RE factor (typical average) rather than rigorous calculation. Data provided by Tritium Engineering. An estimated working inventory of 500 RE is needed to support operations and is not included in the target.

STATUS: This is the current status based on the reservoir inventory as of June. Despite below goal reservoir unloading production, one time reservoir consolidation within the HIVES has helped to meet storage goals.