

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 18, 2000

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director
FROM: Paul F. Gubanc and David T. Moyle, Oak Ridge Site Representatives
SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending February 18, 2000

A. Y-12 Enriched Uranium Operations (EUO) Improvements: Over the past few weeks, a team of WSMS subcontractors have been helping EUO develop its project management and scheduling tools. Individual jobs are now tracked in a two-week rolling window on a daily basis. Jobs are being pulled off the maintenance backlog (which now totals approximately 1900 jobs), and loaded into the schedule in an attempt to decrease the backlog. We have observed positive improvements in the daily status meetings including heightened attentiveness to understanding and delivery of commitments.

Several dumbwaiters in Building 9212 have been out of service for years. As a result, EUO workers have to carry drums and equipment up a steep staircase. Recently, management recognized this as a safety issue and placed a high priority on fixing the E-wing dumbwaiter. Poor housekeeping is still receiving attention, and E-wing is working to eliminate accumulated trash and equipment. (2-A)

B. Y-12 Building 9212 Fissile Material Handling: The ORR plan of action for resuming Building 9212 fissile material handling was approved by DOE on February 17 subject to adding a prerequisite to complete the storage walkdowns and analysis of root causes. LMES now plans to begin their management self-assessment on February 25. The DOE ORR is scheduled for the week of March 13 and restart is planned for March 20. A simulation/demonstration area has been established in Building 9212 where new storage racks will be used to make mock container movements. In parallel with the restart effort, some material will need to be transferred from 9212 under a special operations package to allow other facilities to meet production requirements. These movements will require verification of operator training on the use of the pre-job briefing procedure and material movement sheets; both new tools at 9212 introduced during this latest stand down. (2-A)

C. ORNL U-233 Program: Since the DOE review of the ORNL U-233 program in November 1999, ORNL has been working to acquire and deploy the necessary talent and develop a credible plan. Some of the key actions taken and planned include:

1. BWXT has been subcontracted to provide project management expertise and develop a resource-loaded Phase-1 inspection schedule which is to be issued by March 1st.
2. ORNL has relocated the inspection equipment to a clean mockup area and is preparing plans for rigorous and formal equipment, procedure and operator testing and qualification.
3. Per DOE-EM letter of February 9, additional ventilation filtration will be installed before handling dispersible material and an evaluation of legacy chemicals in the ducting will be conducted.
4. DOE has committed to complete and implement a new SAR before proceeding with Phase-1.
5. Insulating foam samples from the Building 3019 penthouse have been sent for fire testing. (3-A)

D. DOE Staffing: This week, DOE-OR announced the selection of three division directors for its Y-12 office. One of those selected is currently a DOE Y-12 Fac Rep. While certainly a positive addition to the DOE-OR management team, it further exacerbates the existing Y-12 Fac Rep shortage. (DOE-OR's analysis supports 10 billets, only 8 are currently authorized, and with this promotion only 6 are currently staffed.) Additionally, the selection of the new Assistant Manager for Defense Programs and excepted service authorization basis expert are expected next month. (1-B)

cc: Board Members