

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 27, 2001

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Paul F. Gubanc, Oak Ridge Site Representative
SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending July 27, 2001

NNSA Administrator John Gordon visited Y-12 Monday. Staff members Andrews, Hanna, Helfrich and Huntley, visited Y-12 this week to review nuclear material storage.

A. Y-12 Positive Indicators: The following recent observations suggest improvements are occurring in a broad range of areas at Y-12:

- The Deputy General Manager has personally involved himself with the review of equipment, personnel and procedures for operating the "AG" walk-in hood (see reports of July 6 and 13) which was restarted this week. He's emphasizing doing what's right, not just the minimum.
- For the last two weeks, BWXT has utilized NNSA-DP ISM subcontract assessors to review and mentor facilities known to require improvement in ISM (e.g., Development).
- A derelict guard post was demolished this week as part of BWXT's Infrastructure Reduction Program (which also includes Building 9206 Deactivation). Due to the post's poor condition and central location it had become a symbol of neglect. Accomplishing this work, despite funding shortages in high-profile programs, reflects the shift in focus towards the long-term.
- Steady progress continues to be made in removing nuclear material from inadequate storage (Building 81-22) and preparing additional storage space in better facilities.
- The Equipment Test & Inspection (ET&I) shop has been cleaned up, failing test equipment removed, and new test equipment ordered. ET&I is also now managing its work (versus reacting) and working with equipment owners to clean up the work control database. (1-C)

B. ORNL Building 3019 U-233 Inspection Program: On July 27, DOE concluded its ORR for Phase-1 of the U-233 inspection program. Observations from the draft ORR report include:

- The ORR team identified 6 Noteworthy Practices, 13 Pre-start Findings, 6 Post-start Findings, and 6 Observations. The team was especially complimentary towards the operating crew, and members of the management and support staff.
- The team recommended startup of Phase-1 inspections upon resolution of identified pre-start findings. The team further recommended that closure of three specific findings be performed by reviewer(s) independent of DOE line management. These three findings address facility staffing, procedure adequacy (esp. packaging pre-use and in-process inspections), and equipment readiness (esp. the non-destructive examination process equipment).
- Five of the pre-starts identify concerns with the Building 3019 safety basis approved by DOE-ORO in March 2001. DOE-ORO senior management acknowledged that these findings also reflect a concern with the adequacy of DOE-ORO's safety document review and approval process. For this reason, closure of these findings also merits independent review.
- Stack 3039's support of the 3019 vessel off-gas (VOG) system was reviewed by the team. While its operation and maintenance were found adequate, its lack of formal treatment as a safety-related system was a concern. The staff will review this further next week. (3-A)

cc: Board Members