

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 6, 2003

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representative
SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending June 6, 2003

A. Building 9212 Enriched Uranium Operations (EUO) B-1 Wing Fire Protection. As reported on May 9th, a decision was to have been made by April 2003 on whether to proceed with formal planning and budgeting for a design/construction project for providing B-1 Wing fixed fire suppression for wet chemistry operations or to instead rely on an EUO modernization strategy. This week, the YSO Manager provided a letter to NNSA Headquarters providing a summary of history of this issue including the process used to determine that fixed fire suppression needs to be provided for wet chemistry. YSO management informed the site rep. that the NNSA Headquarters decision is still pending. (1-C)

B. Y-12 Building 9720-5 Material Packaging. As reported on May 23rd, the BWXT Operational Readiness Review (ORR) was completed for an effort to sample and repackage enriched uranium button materials that have high dose rates due to isotopes that are remnant from a fuel recycle program. This week, YSO line management completed their review of startup preparations and the BWXT ORR and concluded open issues and prestart findings from the ORR had been satisfactorily resolved. YSO and BWXT line management recommended to the YSO Manager that the NNSA ORR be started. The NNSA ORR is to commence on June 9th. (1-C)

C. Purification Facility. The Purification Facility project is a high priority design/construction effort for a facility that will store and purify a special material. The Purification Facility is classified as a Chemically Hazardous facility per Y-12 procedures. As reported on March 7th, preliminary hazard evaluation documentation had been developed by BWXT and YSO's review was in progress. YSO has since completed their evaluation and issued their Safety Evaluation Report accepting BWXT's hazard analysis, but with certain conditions and comments to be resolved in the final hazard evaluation documentation or sooner. This week, YSO granted approval of Critical Decision 3, commencement of construction activities. YSO personnel informed the site rep. that a construction contract is expected to be awarded by late June. (2-A)

D. Building 9212 Enriched Uranium Operations (EUO) Wet Chemistry Restart. As reported last week, the denitrator system off-gas scrubber equipment was not maintaining required system vacuum. Tightening of some system joints and placing the denitrator chamber in warm standby during a followup operation of the scrubber equipment this week was successful in maintaining system vacuum. Operation of the complete denitrator system is being planned. (2-A)

E. Building 9215 EUO Machining Operations. Also reported last week, unusual substances were noticed on the surface of machining coolant in settling trays, storage tanks and machines that had been in use. The plan had been to skim as much of the suspended substance from the tanks as possible. In attempts to skim the substance this week, the substance would disintegrate and not readily accumulate for removal. As a result, the coolant system had to be drained and flushed. The leading theory for the cause is insufficient removal of oils from the coolant system over time; corrective actions are being developed. (2-A)

cc
Board Members