

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 17, 2003

**TO:** J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representative  
**SUBJ:** Activity Report for Week Ending October 17, 2003

Board member R. Bruce Matthews and staff member Wayne Andrews visited Y-12 and ORNL from Wednesday to Friday this week.

A. Board Member Visit to Y-12. YSO and BWXT management discussed a number of issues with Board member Matthews including actions to improve Y-12 conduct of operations, development of the “shroud” concept for Building 9212 E-wing fire protection (see the October 10<sup>th</sup> site rep. report), the reorganization in the Y-12 Manufacturing Division (that has most Y-12 nuclear facilities), and the efforts under the Line Oversight/Contractor Assurance System. DOE-ORO and ORNL management personnel discussed progress under Recommendation 97-1, *Safe Storage of Uranium-233* (see the October 3<sup>rd</sup> site rep. report). Board member Matthews, staff and site rep. also toured several defense nuclear facilities at Y-12 and ORNL. Some noteworthy items are discussed below. (1-C)

B. Y-12 Conduct of Operations. Senior Y-12 management and the newly-designated manager for the Conduct of Operations Improvement Project noted that a review of YSO and DNFSB observations of deficient conduct of operations has been conducted. This review supported the development of key objectives of the overall effort to improve conduct of operations (e.g., sound understanding and adherence to safety basis controls, disciplined approach to all work performance, questioning attitude at all levels of Y-12). Major tasks to achieve the objectives have been proposed and are being factored into a project plan. (1-C)

C. Y-12 Manufacturing Division Reorganization. The Y-12 Manufacturing Division Manager discussed his reorganization effort which will split production crew management from facility operations management within the Division. Multiple layers of management are being eliminated (about 150 management/supervisory positions are being reduced to about 90 positions) and personnel are to be reassigned to management support positions. Other goals of the reorganization include increased floor presence of management and greater consistency in facility operations across the Division. The personnel changes are to be made in the near future with transition to be completed by the end of December. (2-A)

D. Line Oversight/Contractor Assurance System (LO/CAS). YSO and BWXT efforts under LO/CAS have been presented to NNSA Headquarters. BWXT management noted that their planned efforts includes a rebaselining of compliance of site policy/procedures to external requirements and relevant facility procedures to site procedures, a review of site risks and controls, and selection of key metrics. YSO management noted that no changes to their basic line oversight protocols (or staffing) will be developed until BWXT changes under LO/CAS are more clearly defined. (1-C)

E. ORNL Building 3019. As previously reported, the uranium-233 inspections under Recommendation 97-1 have been completed. DOE announced a contract award to begin a three phase process to address the long-term disposition of the uranium-233 and shutdown of Building 3019. During Phase I (about 18 months), planning/design of equipment and facility modifications will be developed to down-blend the uranium-233 and extract thorium-229 for medical purposes. Phase II will transfer operations from ORNL management to the new contractor to implement the project and plan for shutdown. Phase III will be the shutdown of Building 3019. (3-A)