

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 28, 2004

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representative
SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending May 28, 2004

A. Y-12 Building 9212 B-1 Wing Fire Protection. As reported on March 19th, YSO had submitted their formal recommendation on B-1 Wing fire protection to NNSA Headquarters that included installation of sprinklers on the first floor and several other modifications/upgrades. An NNSA Headquarters response to the Board on this issue is planned but is still pending. YSO management informed the site rep. this week, however, that design and planning efforts for the modifications/upgrades have been started by BWXT. The full project is planned (and is to be funded) to be completed by late Fiscal Year 05.

B. Plutonium-238 at ORNL. As reported on April 16th and May 7th, ORNL had been planning to repackage nine items containing approximately 700 grams of plutonium-238 into special-form capsules for interim storage. Work planning for three of the nine items that have suspect seals (metal O-rings) on the inner container had been in progress and, in response to staff inquiry, requirements had been added calling for respiratory protection and use of the ventilated glovebox room for all repackaging steps. This week, the site rep. observed the final repackaging dry run and the repackaging of the first item. The evolution was conducted to plan with no operational issues, although there was contamination detected on the inner container (the smear is being analyzed). In the post-job review, ORNL personnel noted that the practice dry runs and use of mockups greatly contributed to efficient (i.e., quick) repackaging, thereby minimizing radiation dose to the workers. The repackaging of the other two items is planned to be performed during the week of May 31st.

C. Oxide Conversion Facility (OCF) Startup. As reported on May 7th, BWXT had started their (line) Management Self Assessment (MSA). The MSA has since identified numerous issues in areas such as testing documentation and safety grading/designation of equipment; the issues are being worked and tracked to resolution. As also reported on May 7th, YSO approval of a substantial revision to the OCF portion of the Building 9212 Basis for Interim Operation (BIO) was pending. This approval was granted and implementation of the revised BIO is in progress. BWXT plans to perform an Implementation Validation Review (IVR) of the revised BIO controls during the next few weeks and prior to the line management Performance Self-Assessment (where floor operations are demonstrated).

This week, YSO formally requested BWXT to evaluate the impact to the OCF startup schedule of recent scope additions requested by YSO. These scope additions include mockup testing of certain valves with surrogate material (see the March 19th site rep. report) and development of Maintenance Requirements Analyses (enhanced, formal analyses of maintenance needs) for OCF equipment. Options have been identified by BWXT that extend declaration of readiness and the start of the BWXT Operational Readiness Review from late June into August 2004.

D. Conduct of Operations - Building 9204-2E Assembly/Dissassembly Operations. As part of taking apart an assembly, workers cut into material not intended to be cut. BWXT management informed the site rep. that the workers had exceeded a predetermined machining depth and several aspects of the operation were inconsistent with proper conduct of operations. Review of this incident continues.

cc
Board Members