

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 1, 2006

**TO:** J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** R. Todd Davis/Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representatives  
**SUBJECT:** Activity Report for Week Ending September 1, 2006

A. Y-12 Site Office. On Thursday, the YSO Manager announced that Mr. Kevin Smith will be the new YSO Deputy Manager. Mr. Smith is currently an assistant manager at the Savannah River Site Office. Mr. Smith is expected to report to Y-12 in October.

B. Quality Assurance. Based on the Quality Assurance (QA) issues associated with the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility construction project and other site QA issues, BWXT developed a comprehensive site-wide corrective action plan that is scheduled to be complete in Fall 2007. This plan includes actions in five major areas: programmatic; quality control; quality control organization; subcontractor/asset acquisition; and engineering/field interface. This week, BWXT provided YSO management an update on implementation of corrective actions. BWXT noted that a steering group has been formed to review corrective actions as they are completed to ensure the actions adequately address the previously identified problems. In addition, the plan now identifies the appropriate BWXT personnel for the individual corrective actions. BWXT management informed the site reps. that they also intend to have corporate-level review of progress on the corrective action plan, but specific plans are yet to be determined.

C. Fissile Material Container Labeling. BWXT has been preparing to use a new container labeling system that ensures inclusion of all parameters important for criticality safety. The initial use of the system is a trial activity to load and store the new Rackable Can Storage Box (RCSB) that is to be used in the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility (see the 6/30/06 site rep. report). Following readiness reviews, BWXT conducted the first loading and storage of an RCSB in the Warehouse late last week. The six cans loaded in the RCSB have individual labels consisting of a barcode and readable number. These barcode/number labels correspond to six cards that are placed in a holder attached to the RCSB. The cards contain the specific data on parameters controlled for criticality safety (e.g., isotopic mass and material form). A seventh card is also included that contains summary information for the RCSB as a unit. BWXT still expects to deploy the new labeling system for broader use on fissile material container moves between storage areas by late September.

D. Conduct of Operations. In a building undergoing deactivation, BWXT is repackaging a number of legacy cans that contain uranium residues. On Monday, a YSO Facility Representative (FR) noted that the legacy residue cans being moved on a 6-place dolly did not properly fit in the dolly can slots and were oriented at angles that could defeat the intended spacing control. After the YSO FR raised this issue with facility management, the activity was suspended and criticality safety was contacted. Criticality safety personnel concluded that there was not a criticality concern for this particular case; however, a critique was held the following day to review the event. BWXT personnel noted that these legacy containers do not fit in the 6-place can dolly that is used to move the containers from the storage area but that the dolly was used regardless, with the cans placed askew. BWXT management concluded that this is not their expectation for appropriate use of an engineered criticality safety feature and operator training was conducted on Wednesday. The site reps have inquired whether movement of residue cans in this manner violated any criticality safety requirements.