

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 14, 2008

TO: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: Donald Owen and David Kupferer, Oak Ridge Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for Week Ending November 14, 2008

Building 9212 Facility Risk Review (FRR): DOE Headquarters has approved the Mission Need, Critical Decision-0, for the Nuclear Facility Risk Reduction (NFRR) project. The scope of the NFRR project is to complete many of the system and facility upgrades identified in the Building 9212 FRR (see the 8/29/08 and 9/19/08 site rep. reports). The NFRR project upgrades primarily include replacing various utility systems and also include scope for Building 9204-2E.

Uranium Processing Facility (UPF): Responding to the Board's letter of February 6, 2008, NNSA Headquarters had committed in May to the future use of UPF fire water supply tanks as the water supply for the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility (HEUMF) safety-significant fire suppression system. As UPF preliminary design is in progress, proper formal direction to the UPF project for such a water supply tie-in to HEUMF is needed. This need had been discussed during a Y-12 visit by Board member Joseph Bader and staff in September (see the 9/5/08 site rep. report). Such formal project direction has still not been provided by YSO. In response to site rep. inquiry, YSO management stated that formal direction to the UPF project is being developed and should be issued by next week.

Conduct of Operations: YSO had requested a briefing by B&W to provide a status of recent actions to improve conduct of operations with an emphasis on procedure compliance and efforts being taken to ensure that procedures are appropriate for the tasks being performed (see last week's site rep. report). This week, B&W briefed YSO noting several recent forums where management emphasized proper adherence to procedures and proper use of protocols for suspending or stopping an operation to the workforce. B&W briefed the criteria and approach for the year-long procedure review effort that will encompass several hundred individual procedures. Regarding procedure use expectations, the criteria calls for the review team on each procedure to identify whether steps, sections or the entire procedure needs specific use controls. B&W management noted that after a few months of procedure reviews, recommendations on broad procedure use expectations should be developed (see the 10/24/08 site rep. report).

Wet Chemistry Operations: B&W reported a Technical Safety Requirement (TSR) violation due to exceeding an allowable quantity of stored organics in late October. Organics are controlled to reduce the size of a fire in a wet chemistry area. This TSR violation dealt with the limit on organics in safe bottles and was caused by a supervisor directing storage of a safe bottle containing used oil that had been drained from process pumps. This oil had not been properly accounted for in the organic inventory for the area. The TSR violation was identified as a result of a YSO Facility Representative observing the stored oil and questioning TSR compliance. Additionally, B&W review of the applicable inventory tracking form revealed a separate violation of the limit. This event is prompting changes to the inventory tracking form and an evaluation of overall controls on organics in this wet chemistry area.

B&W Management: This week, B&W announced that William Klemm is to be the new Deputy General Manager effective November 17th. Mr. Klemm is the current Vice President for the Y-12 Facilities, Infrastructure and Services Division.