

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 12, 2005

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: R. Todd Davis/Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for Week Ending August 12, 2005

Staff members Duncan, Shackelford and Tontodonato were at Y-12 to review plans and preparations for Quality Evaluation relocation.

A. Building 9212 Seismic Deficiencies. In response to the Board's April 20, 2005 letter concerning the seismic deficiencies of Building 9212, BWXT had proposed a three-phased approach for addressing Building 9212 seismic upgrades (see site rep. weekly 6/17/05). This week, YSO responded to the proposal generally accepting its elements but requesting that additional detail be defined on milestone completion to support briefing the Board on NNSA's path forward as requested in the April 20th letter. YSO currently intends to brief the Board in September. The YSO response also emphasized the need to accelerate reduction of the backlog of nuclear materials and the need to more quickly define a trigger based on potential delays for the Building 9212 replacement facility (i.e., the Uranium Processing Facility) from which additional seismic upgrades or other remedies would be performed.

B. Quality Evaluation Relocation. The staff and site reps. reviewed the plans and safety basis for relocating the Quality Evaluation function to the Assembly/Disassembly building. YSO has approved activities associated with the physical move of the first glovebox (i.e., the linear glovebox). BWXT continues to define specific startup activities and plans to submit a revised Project Execution Plan later this month. The critical lift to remove the linear glovebox is now scheduled for mid-September. With regards to readiness review for startup of the first glovebox, BWXT has not proposed a review level via the Startup Notification Report. BWXT personnel noted to the site reps., however, that they intend to propose a contractor Readiness Assessment (RA) with no NNSA RA. Discussion of this subject is planned between YSO and BWXT next week.

C. Oak Ridge Radioactive Waste Management. As noted on January 14th, planning had begun on a project by Bechtel Jacobs Company (BJC) involving the excavation and disposal of an empty radioactive waste tank, W-1A, and the surrounding highly contaminated soil. Tank W-1A supported past ORNL Building 3019 operations. The contaminated soil resulted from leakage from a damaged joint in feed piping to the tank. During an attempt to excavate the tank in 2001 (the tank has at least three feet of soil overburden), the radiation field of the surrounding soil was measured at levels as high as 20 R/hr.

The first operation for this project is to extract soil samples to delineate areas that would be handled as transuranic waste from soils that could be handled as low-level waste. In early July, BJC submitted a Hazard Assessment Document for the sampling operation. This document evaluates the sampling operation and identifies administrative controls on volume of soils brought to the surface. The intent of the controls is to ensure a Hazard Category 3 inventory of radionuclides is not brought to the surface at any one time. DOE-ORO submitted their Safety Evaluation Report (SER) on the proposed controls to the DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM). In mid-July, DOE-EM approved the SER. DOE-ORO personnel noted to the site rep. that sampling is now expected to start in September.

D. Independent Oversight Review at Y-12. Members of a DOE Office of Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance team were at Y-12 to refine planning for their biennial review of Y-12 environment, safety and health program implementation. The main on-site review is scheduled for August 22nd to September 2nd followed by a factual verification visit in mid-September.