

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 11, 2002

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Matt Forsbacka and Paul Gubanc, Oak Ridge Site Representatives
SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending January 11, 2002

Dr. Eggenberger and staff members Andrews, Bamdad, Blackman, Coones, Gwal, and Helfrich, and Outside Experts Rizzo and Stephenson were on site this week to review design planning activities for the new Y-12 Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility (HEUMF).

A. Y-12 Disassembly: The modified lifting fixture to be used in the new disassembly campaign was successfully demonstrated to the NNSA Readiness Assessment (RA) team leader on Wednesday. This action closed the final remaining prestart finding from the RA, and first use under a formal startup plan will commence the week of January 14. (2-A)

B. Y-12 Building 9206:

1. The NNSA Operational Readiness Review (ORR) for the thermal stabilization process has been delayed into February due to issues associated with the field calibration findings and ORR team member availability.
2. In late December, BWXT issued its annual review of Y-12 criticality safety. That report identified a criticality safety deficiency in Building 9206 with an excess accumulation of fissile material in a long-inactive HEPA filter bank. BWXT is quickly performing a criticality safety evaluation and has imposed administrative control over the HEPA enclosure. Gubanc visited 9206 Friday and passed his observations to YAO for their consideration.(3-A)

C. Y-12 Vital Safety Systems: On Tuesday, Gwal and Forsbacka reviewed five evidence packages compiled by Y-12 to support Recommendation 2000-2 Phase I assessments of Vital Safety Systems. The packages contained comprehensive supporting evidence for the assessments, and knowledgeable systems engineers and managers were on hand to answer our questions. The level of rigor applied to the assessment process made a favorable impression, and Gwal will perform a detailed review of a select set of packages. (1-C)

D. ORNL Building 3019: Inspection of the U-233 in 3019A continues at a steady pace with 9 of 86 Phase-1 inspections now completed. To date, the outer containers have been in "like new" condition. Also this week, a Bechtel Jacobs Company (BJC) subcontractor commenced non-destructive assay of the 3019B ventilation ducts which contain perchlorates and fissile material which may potentially be shock-sensitive and of a criticality concern. (3-A, 3-B)

E. DOE Oak Ridge Operations - Environmental Management (DOE-ORO/EM): This week, Dae Chung and his DOE-HQ team again visited Oak Ridge to complete their review of ORO and Bechtel Jacobs (BJC) performance relative to the use and maintenance of authorization bases (AB). Forsbacka attended the Thursday exit brief and will provide highlights to the Board next week. The review team's final report is planned to be issued by January 31. (1-C)

cc: Board Members