

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 15, 2002

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Tim Hunt, Oak Ridge Site Cognizant Engineer
SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending November 15, 2002

Staff member M. Moury was on site providing Site Representative coverage. Staff members R. Robinson and W. Von Holle were on site for a chemical safety review.

A. BWXT Y-12 Chemical Safety: The staff reviewed the corrective actions resulting from the BWXT Y-12 Due Diligence external review of the chemical safety program. The staff also walked through the non-MAA hazardous material storage areas of Buildings 9206 and 9204-4. Considerable progress has been made in eliminating excess chemicals, streamlining the management of chemicals, and improving chemical safety training at Y-12 since the Management Review Board Corrective Action report was issued. The staff observed an improvement in storage of excess materials in Building 9206, although contaminated organic liquids remain in glass extraction columns. Several old chemical storage buildings have been demolished, and storage conditions for the remaining excess hazardous materials has generally improved. (1-C)

B. BWXT Y-12 Wet Chemistry Startup Preparations: The BWXT Y-12 General Manager led a review to assess the readiness status of Enriched Uranium Operations wet chemistry activities. His team was composed of six corporate Bechtel and BWXT staff members. The two major issues they identified dealt with the issue closure process and the startup plan. The team found that the closure evidence files were inadequate and lacked the level of detail needed to demonstrate a finding was adequately closed. More fundamentally, they found that in some cases the evidence that was provided for closure did not adequately address the initial finding. The team also noted that the startup plan, which lays out the actions to go from completion of the Operational Readiness Review to full operation, requires additional detail. Based on his review, the General Manager will provide YSO with a proposed path forward to startup. BWXT Y-12 and YSO will brief the Board prior to the start of the focused contractor ORR. (2-A)

C. BWXT Y-12 Maintenance Program: As a follow up to several maintenance reviews, the staff met with DOE personnel to review the progress that has been made to improve the Y-12 maintenance program. Good progress continues to be made, although significant effort is still required. Performance metrics show improvements in reducing maintenance job cycle times and improved preventive maintenance completion rates. The staff was also pleased to note that significant emphasis has been placed on completing the preventive maintenance requirements analysis - a key activity to improving the preventive maintenance program. The staff, however, also noted that the ratio of preventive maintenance to corrective maintenance activities is still extremely low, and the maintenance backlog is beginning to increase again. (2-A)