

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 26, 2001

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: M. V. Helfrich
SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending October 26, 2001

Staff members Fortenberry, Andrews, Contardi, Feldman, and Shackelford and Outside Expert West visited the Y-12 National Security Complex to review preparations for restart of wet chemistry processes in Enriched Uranium Operations. Oak Ridge Site representative Paul Gubanc was participating in an off-site training course.

A. Y-12 Enriched Uranium Operations: Wet chemistry processes scavenge, concentrate and purify uranium solutions to prepare them as feed to the metal production process. These processes consist primarily of extraction and evaporation systems, and are currently scheduled to be restarted in two groups. The first group (primary extraction and intermediate evaporators) is planned to have BWXT and NNSA Operational Readiness Reviews (ORRs) in the April/May 2002 timeframe, concurrent with the reviews for the startup of the hydrogen fluoride process. The ORRs for the second group (centrifugal contractors for secondary extraction, secondary evaporator, and denitrator) are planned for August/September 2002. The incomplete status of the technical baseline, operating procedures, authorization basis, criticality safety evaluations, operational testing, and training materials indicate that restart is behind schedule. The answers to questions raised by the Board staff demonstrated that significant work remains to be accomplished in the areas of safety analysis, selection of safety controls, and implementation of these controls. (2-A)

B. Y-12 Dismantlement Preparations: BWXT continues to work on addressing pre-start findings from its Performance Self-Assessment (PSA) for a new dismantlement campaign. Additional equipment problems were identified and are being resolved. BWXT currently plans to start its readiness assessment at the beginning of next week. (2-A)

C. Y-12 Building 9206: As part of their preparations for startup of pyrophoric material stabilization, BWXT personnel have identified two new equipment modifications. This has resulted in a slippage in their schedule, with the PSA now scheduled to begin on November 5, 2001 and the BWXT ORR scheduled to begin on November 27, 2001. (3-B)

cc: Board Members