

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 9, 2001

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: M. V. Helfrich
SUBJ: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending November 9, 2001

Outside expert R. Lewis visited the Y-12 National Security Complex to assist the staff in observing the BWXT readiness assessment of a weapons dismantlement process. Oak Ridge site representative P. Gubanc continued to attend an off-site training course.

A. Y-12 Dismantlement Preparations: Demonstrations of operations to support the BWXT readiness assessment (RA) of the new dismantlement campaign began on Monday and the administrative reviews, which began last Friday, November 2nd, continued. The demonstrations were conducted sporadically throughout the week. It appears that all key operations will be demonstrated by the end of the week, partially as a result of the liberal use of overtime. Although operators exhibited satisfactory operational and technical capabilities, problems were noted in other operational areas. Management's slowness and inability to answer operational and equipment related questions, coupled with a lack of adequate preplanning and a failure to communicate clearly with the RA team, resulted in a series of operational delays. Other delays were caused by material problems associated with both dedicated and support equipment. During the course of its administrative reviews, the RA team identified a number of issues related to areas such as fire protection, hazardous chemical management, issues management, and training and qualifications. However, most of these problems are already being worked on by dismantlement personnel, and none at present appear to be significant showstoppers. Evaluation of the readiness of the dismantlement campaign by the RA team appeared to be thorough and competent. Formal findings from the RA should be issued by early next week. (2-A)

B. Y-12 ISM Phase II Verification: This week, Mr. Joe King is leading a review to verify implementation of ISM at Y-12. There were two previous DOE reviews conducted in August 1998 and August 2000. In general, while there is still room for improvement, the team is not finding the types of problems with the implementation of ISM at Y-12 that have been found during the past two reviews. In particular, it appears that the Technology Development Organization has made significant progress in implementing ISM since the accident that occurred on June 19th. The team is continuing to explore specific concerns related to the implementation of Feedback and Improvement; Maintenance; Equipment, Test and Inspection; Field Calibration; and the level of YAO/BWXT knowledge of the activities and associated hazards of non-NNSA tenants at Y-12 (specifically ORNL and Environmental Management). The review is scheduled to be completed by the middle of next week. (1-C)

cc: Board Members