

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 11, 2000

**TO:** G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Paul F. Gubanc and David T. Moyle, Oak Ridge Site Representatives  
**SUBJ:** Activity Report for Week Ending February 11, 2000

Mr. Gubanc was on sick leave Monday through Wednesday. Mr. Moyle was on sick leave Monday and Tuesday.

A. Y-12 Enriched Uranium Operations (EUO) Fissile Material Handling: Last week, we reported that EUO's schedule to resume fissile material handling in Building 9212 extended into July 2000. Due to concerns expressed over the timeliness of this effort, DOE and LMES management reevaluated and pared down the scope of EUO's resumption planning to specifically focus on those attributes necessary to demonstrate safe fissile material handling. Operational enhancements, such as simplified criticality controls, will be moved from the restart plan to a post-restart "Systematic Improvement Plan." On February 10, LMES issued a revised plan of action for the LMES ORR which now commits to declaring readiness at EUO by March 3 (with a comparably-scoped DOE ORR to follow). We support this more focused effort and will provide DOE our thoughts on the ORR scope early next week. (2-A)

B. Y-12 Building 9212 Material Condition: Precipitated by our E-wing tour last week with an EUO management subcontractor (i.e., WSMS), LMES is taking action to address the lighting and fire loading deficiencies observed. We conducted a follow up tour on Friday (seven working days later) to confirm positive accomplishments. Some light bulbs have been replaced, but more work is needed especially regarding defective fixtures. (Maintenance personnel come prepared only to replace bulbs, not to effect minor repairs like replacing ballasts). We did recognize that the lighting in the basement has been substantially improved over last week when we needed to use flashlights in several areas. We saw very little improvement in the combustible loading, piles of trash, and old equipment although we are told that effort started in earnest only yesterday. The facility is apparently working on the development of a cleanup plan, but it is not likely that this cleanup will occur within the two week window originally dictated. We will continue to follow up with DOE and LMES but the apparent difficulty of dealing with these seemingly simple issues suggests more fundamental issues are restricting progress (e.g., work planning, maintenance workforce leadership). (2-A)

C. Chemical Safety: In response to the Board's letter of July 7, 1999, DOE-OR issued a chemical safety action plan in September 1999. Unfortunately, DOE-OR did not assemble a working group to execute the plan until raised as an issue by the Site Reps in November 1999. Since that time, the DOE-OR working group has assembled a chemical safety program guidance document, has promulgated this guidance to the prime contractors for action, and has revised the DOE-OR action plan to reflect achievable due dates. DOE-OR senior management reviews progress with the working group leader on a monthly basis. The staff will examine this in more detail later this month. (1-C)

cc: Board Members