

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 10, 1999

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director
FROM: Paul F. Gubanc and David T. Moyle, Oak Ridge Site Representatives
SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending November 12, 1999

Board member Joe DiNunno, staff member Matt Moury and Outside Expert Ralph West were in Knoxville this week to participate in an Oak Ridge-sponsored ISM Workshop. This report is being filed on Wednesday due to the Veteran's Day holiday and planned leave by the Site Reps.

A. Enriched Uranium Operations (EUO): On Monday and Tuesday, LMES paused operations to conduct training for all EUO employees. On Wednesday, LMES concluded this training with an address by the LMES President and a signing ceremony by all EUO employees of a commitment to the principles of conduct of operations, procedural compliance, criticality safety and personal accountability. As of Wednesday, LMES had not yet received DOE's agreement to resume operations. DOE-OR is still collecting internal comments on the training, and will confer with headquarters prior to issuing a resumption order.

Another confounding issue associated with the recent suspension is the accelerated enrollment of additional personnel in the personnel security assurance program (PSAP). In particular, essential support, inspection and oversight personnel are not yet fully enrolled in PSAP and thus their unescorted access to material access areas (MAAs) has been revoked. To compensate, PSAP-qualified EUO staff, with no other assigned duties, will be required to escort these personnel in the MAA. It is not yet clear whether the existing EUO staff can support this demand, and more importantly, the unfettered access of safety oversight personnel has been impacted. This same concern also exists at other Y-12 nuclear facilities and is not expected to be resolved for several weeks. (2-A)

B. Chemical Safety: In our weekly of October 29, we were critical of the leadership being displayed on implementation of the DOE-OR chemical safety plan. This Monday, DOE-OR senior management was presented with a path forward which incorporated many of the features we consider necessary for success. The DOE-OR Manager was supportive and directed her staff to respond quickly by committing resources. The first meeting of the DOE-OR chemical safety working group is scheduled for next Monday. (1-C)

C. Upcoming Reviews: Next week, Mr. Moyle will observe a criticality safety review of Y-12 led by Dr. Jerry McKamey. Mr. Gubanc will monitor the fire hazard survey at ORNL referred to in DOE's (Krebs) letter of October 28, 1999, to the Board.

cc: Board Members