

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 25, 1998

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: Wayne Andrews, Acting Oak Ridge Site Representative

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending September 25 , 1998

Mr. Gubanc will continued his personal leave this week and is currently scheduled to return on October 5, 1998. Mr. Owen will be the acting site representative the week of September 28, 1998. Staff members Burns, Forsbacka, and Hunt were at ORNL to review progress on deliverables associated with Recommendation 97-2 and Burns and Forsbacka were at Y-12 to review the site-wide criticality accident alarm system (CAAS) program and to follow up on a recent occurrence concerning CAAS coverage in Building 9402-2E.

A. Y-12 Elevated Uranium Bioassay Results Update: As reported last week, during routine urinalysis, a single EUO worker in the casting area exhibited elevated uranium levels. Since that time, fecal samples from this individual have confirmed these elevated levels which approach, but are not expected to exceed, the LMES annual administrative limit (1 rem). An additional 32 individuals have been requested to provide urine and fecal samples and so far 11 persons are restricted from radiological work based on initial analysis. There will be dose estimates on an additional 5-7 individuals early next week. Early indications are that the uranium ingested is probably class Y which is the less soluble class and results in a higher dose. Historically Y-12 has used a mixed class algorithm with a very small class Y component. Data from the additional worker samples should resolve this issue. Because of some uncertainty as to the actual source of the material within E-wing, the entire wing is now posted as a respirator area.

B. Safety Management Evaluation of the Y-12 Plant: A Safety Management Evaluation of the Y-12 Plant and selected environmental management facilities will be conducted during September - December 1998 by DOE-HQ (EH-21). This week was the initial scoping visit with approximately ten members of the twenty member team present. The currently proposed scope includes Enriched Uranium Operations (Building 9212 and 9215 Complexes), Disassembly and Assembly (Building 9204-2E), Depleted Uranium Operations (Building 9201-5N), and Lithium Operations (Building 9204-2). Building 9206, a legacy facility with very large uranium quantities in storage in various, less stable, forms is currently within the proposed scope but some were suggesting its elimination. The last time DOE-HQ (EH) reviewed this facility (HEU Vulnerability Assessment, summer 1996) it was judged to be one of the most vulnerable uranium facilities in the complex. There has been little DOE follow up since that time. The Field Data Collection phase of this review will be October 19-30, 1998 with a Validation and Closeout phase November 30 - December 11, 1998.

cc: Board members