

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 23, 2009

TO: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: Donald Owen and David Kupferer, Oak Ridge Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for Week Ending October 23, 2009

Board Member Visit. Board member Joseph Bader and staff member Roy Kasdorf visited Oak Ridge to review various safety management issues at Y-12 and at ORNL Solid Waste Storage Area-5. Some noteworthy items from the visit include:

- Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) Proposed Critical Decision Strategy — Regarding the concern of accelerated Critical Decision 2/3 approval for site preparation that includes facility base mat construction (see the 9/11/09 site rep. report), YSO noted that a formal hold for base mat construction is planned. YSO would conduct a construction readiness review prior to releasing the base mat hold that would follow applicable requirements and expectations for Headquarters reviews that normally support a Critical Decision 2/3 approval. YSO management noted that the proposed strategy is still under review by NNSA.
- UPF Basic Ordering Agreement (BOA) Subcontractors — Regarding roles, responsibilities and interfaces among B&W and BOA subcontractors (see the 4/10/09 site rep. report), B&W has yet to add a section to the UPF Engineering Execution Plan that specifically discusses processes for BOA subcontractor integration. That revision is now planned to be completed in November. In response to staff observations on seismic/structural design efforts (see the 10/09/09 site rep. report), B&W indicated they would draft a new seismic/structural analysis and design plan by November and issue the plan by December.
- Quality Assurance (QA) — This week, B&W stood up a new Nuclear Facilities Quality Assurance organization directly reporting to the B&W Y-12 President. Regarding efforts to develop Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility (HEUMF) construction QA lessons learned, B&W is completing causal analyses and plans to brief the Board in November (see the 7/17/09 site rep. report).

Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility. On Monday, B&W began its Operational Readiness Review (ORR) for startup of HEUMF (see last week's site rep. report). The site reps. observed certain operational demonstrations. The ORR is to be completed by November 4th.

Specific Administrative Control (SAC) Implementation. The Board's letter of July 30, 2007 to DOE noted that, based on results of staff reviews, the Board would not close Recommendation 2002-3, *Requirements for the Design, Implementation, and Maintenance of Administrative Controls*. In June 2008, NNSA Headquarters directed site offices to perform field reviews of SAC implementation but completion dates had not been established. Last month, NNSA directed the site offices to provide the following: (a) the results and conclusions from the field reviews, (b) actions taken to address specific findings referenced in the Board's letter, and (c) actions taken by the site office and contractor to institutionalize periodic SAC assessments.

Last week, YSO responded to NNSA Headquarters that it completed a field review of 10 SACs (there are 50 total SACs at Y-12) and identified two weaknesses related to SAC implementation. One of these weaknesses resulted in B&W declaring a Technical Safety Requirement violation (see the 2/20/09 site rep. report). YSO's response described the actions the site has taken to address issues specific to Y-12 provided by the Board's letter. YSO also attests that YSO and B&W have procedurally implemented periodic reviews of SAC implementation. YSO concluded that Y-12 has met the commitments associated with Recommendation 2002-3.