

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 3, 2007

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: R. Todd Davis/Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for Week Ending August 3, 2007

A. Uranium Processing Facility. Board members Joseph Bader and Larry Brown along with staff members Roy Kasdorf and David Grover visited Y-12 to review progress on design of the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF). UPF project personnel provided the Board with the path forward for preliminary design and progress on resolving outstanding Board issues.

B. Y-12 Infrastructure Supporting Manufacturing. The YSO Manager had requested in December that NNSA Headquarters commission an independent team of industry experts to evaluate the infrastructure supporting manufacturing activities and address YSO and BWXT concerns with funding priorities in this area in meeting future production deliverables (see the 5/11/07 and 2/23/07 site rep. reports). The team began their evaluation in May. This week, the team presented results of the evaluation to YSO and BWXT management. Some results include:

- The team validated the YSO/BWXT concerns of inadequate funding and priority of Y-12 manufacturing infrastructure, in particular preventative maintenance. The team recommended that priorities of all projects across Y-12 be reviewed and that real or perceived funding barriers be addressed to properly fund preventative maintenance consistent with production needs. The team emphasized that lower-priority projects may have to be left unfunded to adequately fund preventative maintenance.

- The team noted lack of a top-level strategic plan that would provide analysis of facility/equipment availability necessary to meet production deliverables and that would provide the basis for manufacturing infrastructure resource needs. The team recommended that Y-12 develop such a plan.

The site reps. note that lack of preventative maintenance has been longstanding at Y-12 and was most recently addressed by YSO (see last week's site rep. report). The team emphasized that close cooperation among NNSA Headquarters, YSO and BWXT will be essential in developing solutions to the Y-12 manufacturing infrastructure problems.

C. Wet Chemistry Spills - Followup. This week, BWXT briefed YSO on the details and actions associated with recent spills in the Enriched Uranium Operations Building. The causes of these spills have varied and include misaligned valves, system degradation and unexpected system performance. BWXT management has identified corrective actions to be implemented (until cancelled) to help avoid spills. These actions include step-by-step procedural sign-off for operating the high capacity evaporator and conduct of special system alignment checks for a separate wet chemistry process system each week in a certain portion of the building.

D. Rolling and Forming. BWXT completed their Readiness Assessment (RA) for the restart of the Rolling and Forming activity (see last week's site rep. report). BWXT expects to restart rolling and forming operations next week.