

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 11, 2008

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: R. Todd Davis/Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for Week Ending January 11, 2008

A. Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility. The site rep. walked down the construction site and discussed with project personnel installation of safety-class storage racks that has been in progress since October (see the 10/26/07 site rep. report). The racks are in various phases of assembly, welding and fastener loading. Late last week, B&W issued an assessment report on storage rack installation. Among deficiencies noted in the report were: (1) the independent inspection agency was not documenting inspections on the designated inspection form at the time of the inspection but rather logging the information in a logbook with inspection results up to two months old not being documented on the designated form; and (2) the construction contractor was not performing weekly oversight surveillances of various phases of subcontractor work as required by their quality assurance plan for the storage racks. B&W management stated to YSO management that immediate actions to address these issues have been taken and the assessment report has been provided to the construction contractor for a formal response.

B. Specific Administrative Control Implementation. In response to the Board's letter of July 30, 2007, YSO directed B&W to upgrade the safety classification of monitoring and alarm equipment supporting a Specific Administrative Control (see the 9/14/07 site rep. report) regarding glovebox oxygen level. The YSO Safety Evaluation Report also required identification of any near-term compensatory measures and the completion of a design adequacy review for the upgraded equipment. In response, B&W issued a standing order that requires a new daily functional check of the equipment. A design adequacy review was also recently completed. The review concludes that the equipment does not meet safety-significant criteria and recommends installation of a backup power system (uninterruptible power supply) to help improve reliability.

C. Uranium Processing Facility. This week, the staff and site reps. discussed the status and plans for the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) with YSO personnel. The B&W UPF Project Team continues to add staffing to support preliminary design following definitive information on the fiscal year 2008 budget. B&W has identified the following three areas of design where Basic Ordering Agreements (BOAs) will be awarded to subcontractors: specialty and mechanical equipment, civil/structural, and other facility equipment. For specialty and mechanical equipment, B&W has made a subcontractor selection that is currently being reviewed by DOE-Headquarters. A decision on this contract is expected by the end of January. The other BOAs are expected to be awarded by this Summer. B&W is also finalizing the UPF design criteria with YSO review planned by the end of January.

D. Feedback and Improvement. Following extended cold weather late last week, several Y-12 fire suppression systems were impacted by freeze protection problems including certain safety systems in Buildings 9212 and 9215. B&W entered Limiting Condition for Operations as required to respond and repair the impacted safety systems. As of Thursday, a formal critique(s) had not been called for these events. Following repeated questioning by YSO personnel, a critique was being scheduled by B&W personnel for next week to review the freeze protection events against freeze protection program requirements.