

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 28, 2005

**TO:** J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** R. Todd Davis/Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representatives  
**SUBJECT:** Activity Report for Week Ending October 28, 2005

Mr. Owen was out of the office this week. Staff members Duncan, Layton and March were on-site this week to review the fire protection program at Y-12.

A. Fire Protection Comprehensive Corrective Action Plan. In a letter dated August 18, 2000, the Board noted concerns with the fire protection program at Y-12. In response to this letter, a ten year comprehensive plan was developed to improve the fire protection program. Over the last four years, significant progress has been made in reducing old maintenance requests, updating fire hazards analyses, developing a fire barrier program and improving the overall fire protection program at Y-12. However, the fiscal year funding in 2006 has been significantly reduced and may impact additional corrective actions. BWXT is currently updating the project execution plan (scheduled to be complete in December) and will evaluate funding requirements and impacts at that time.

B. New Disassembly Glovebox. On Monday, the contractor Readiness Assessment (RA) team briefed management on the results of their review of the new disassembly glovebox in the assembly/disassembly building. The team concluded that upon resolution of the pre-start findings, the facility will have achieved readiness to conduct operations. Six pre-start findings were identified by the team. Although five of these findings were closed prior to completion of the review, all of these findings were reviewed by BWXT for causal factors (see last week's report). The NNSA RA team will conduct their review after BWXT closes the remaining pre-start finding (incorrectly installed o-rings) and YSO line management has validated that the facility is ready.

C. Melton Valley Transuranic Waste Processing. Foster-Wheeler has now completed their Operational Readiness Review (ORR) for processing contact-handled transuranic waste. The ORR team concluded that the project is ready for operations upon closure of the pre-start findings. The following five pre-start findings were identified: implementation of limits on flammable and combustible liquids; appropriate controls to maintain the process building in accordance with the safety basis; lack of procedural requirements to check drum vents; implementation of vendor recommendations to ensure drum sealing; and procedural requirements for inventory limits. The DOE ORR for this activity is expected to start in mid-November.

D. Y-12 Electrical Panels. The staff (Gwal) and the site reps. recently discussed the status of electrical panel inspections with BWXT and YSO personnel. In September, BWXT completed the intrusive inspections for panels identified for further evaluation in Y-12 major nuclear facilities (see 6/3/05 site rep. weekly). In many of the panels, the intrusive inspections revealed instances of one or more of the following problems: missing ground bus; missing neutral bus; loose lugs; missing cutouts; old breakers; and nicked or stranded wires. These problems were corrected during the inspections. BWXT noted that 33 panels need additional repairs or will require replacement. BWXT plans to conduct thermal imaging of electrical panels every two years to identify potential problems.