

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 10, 2005

**TO:** J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** R. Todd Davis/Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representatives  
**SUBJECT:** Activity Report for Week Ending November 11, 2005

A. Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility. As reported on October 7<sup>th</sup>, YSO and BWXT management noted that formal YSO and BWXT assessment/oversight plans of on-going HEUMF construction had not been developed and no documented assessments of on-going construction activities had been conducted. This week, YSO project management noted to the site rep. that formal YSO and BWXT assessment and oversight plans have been drafted and are expected to be completed by the end of November. YSO has assigned an individual experienced in nuclear facility concrete placements full-time to HEUMF construction oversight and assessments are being conducted. YSO project management also noted that additional YSO resources are to be assigned to review construction contractor procurement submittals for nuclear safety, structures, systems and components.

B. Uranium Processing Facility. The site reps. recently met with BWXT management for the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) project to discuss the status of the conceptual design and facility technology selection. BWXT is now nearing completion of the conceptual design for this project with independent external reviews expected to begin in January. Initial geological surveys for the proposed site have been completed. In addition, preliminary safety documents are nearing completion. During the last few months, BWXT has focused on ensuring the facility is appropriately designed and sized to meet the program requirements (e.g., facility capabilities and throughput). BWXT plans to complete the UPF conceptual design package (i.e., Critical Decision-1) in February. Although funding is limited during fiscal year 2006, facility detailed design is expected to begin in mid-2006 following NNSA approval of the Critical Decision-1 package.

C. Y-12 Nuclear Criticality Safety Committee. Last week, the Y-12 Nuclear Criticality Safety Committee (NCSC) began their annual review of the criticality safety program at Y-12. The NCSC assessment will focus on the following areas:

- Fissile material operations, criticality safety evaluation development and quality, and implementation of criticality safety for decontamination and decommissioning activities
- Site progress on implementing an integrated fissile material management control system and addressing issues identified at the Warehouse in February as requested by YSO letter dated March 18, 2005 (see site rep. report dated 3/25/05)
- Effectiveness of corrective actions from previous NCSC assessments and other criticality safety reviews
- Satisfactory progress on four plant-level criticality safety initiatives and programs: container simplification; unneeded materials/equipment disposition; holdup reduction; and holdup survey program implementation

Field work and personnel interviews are expected to be completed over the next two weeks. The results of this review will be briefed to YSO and BWXT management in December.