

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 10, 2003

**TO:** J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Tim Hunt, Oak Ridge Site Cognizant Engineer  
**SUBJ:** Activity Report for Week Ending January 10, 2003

Staff member Wayne Andrews was on site this week providing site representative coverage.

A. BWXT Y-12 Enriched Uranium Operations (EUO) Wet Chemistry Restart Preparations: Although a final report is not yet available, the second contractor operational readiness review (CORR II) for wet chemistry operations in Building 9212 was completed December 20, 2002. There were eight prestart findings. The contractor currently anticipates closing out seven of the findings by the end of this week. As previously reported (12/13/02), there appears to be a marked improvement since the previous CORR in operator training, conduct of operations, operator knowledge, equipment performance, and the clarity of operating procedures. Also, less simulation and more actual performance was used to demonstrate equipment and personnel readiness. There continues to be a potential concern with the minimal number of qualified operators for each of the six wet chemistry systems. The secondary extraction (SX) system was not demonstrated during this CORR due to one of the two qualified operators being out on medical leave. This SX system demonstration is the eighth prestart finding, and it is anticipated that its operation will be validated sometime prior to the NNSA ORR, scheduled to start on January 27, 2003. A final report is not expected until next week, at the earliest.

The site representative walked down B-1 Wing of Building 9212 with the NNSA criticality safety subject matter expert and others. No significant discrepancies were identified. (2-A)

B. BWXT Y-12 EUO Reduction. Reduction run #5, originally scheduled for October 2002, still has not been accomplished. The contractor is about to issue a new surveillance procedure which has incorporated a number of additional tests on the furnace. The next step, once the new procedure is issued, will be to reaccomplish the surveillance either late this week or next Monday. The current goal is to complete the process and produce a product (i.e., a metal button) prior to the end of next week. (2-A)

C. Emergency Management. The NNSA recently approved a new contractor generated *Y-12 National Security Complex Emergency Plan*. Historically, the lead for the development and execution of this plan was the Oak Ridge Operations Office (DOE-ORO). With the DOE/NNSA reorganization it became necessary for the NNSA contractor to produce its own plan. The plan appears to be complete and adequate. Unfortunately the necessary changes to the existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the DOE and the State of Tennessee for a response to offsite emergencies have not been made. From an emergency management perspective, the existing MOA requires the State of Tennessee to work through DOE-ORO. Unfortunately, this is inconsistent with the newly approved emergency plan where DOE-ORO has no roles or responsibilities. (2-A)