

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 23, 2003

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director

FROM: Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representative

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending December 26, 2003

The site rep. will be out of the office from Wednesday through Friday. Y-12 will be on a holiday routine on Wednesday and Thursday.

A. Building 9204-4: Storage of Machine Chips - Update. As reported last week, BWXT had been planning an effort to vent several unvented drums containing depleted uranium chips. The drums are to be vented using a remotely-operated brass punch. BWXT had decided to incorporate certain controls to electrically ground the drums and have fire department personnel on-scene for quick response to a fire, should a response be needed. The site rep. and staff have been inquiring about the required personnel protective equipment and the specific fire response planning for the activity. As a result of these inquiries, Y-12 personnel indicated this week that they would require respirators for personnel entry into a designated airborne contamination area and require that a radiological air monitor be placed in the area of the drums. Y-12 personnel also stated that a review of fire response planning would be conducted prior to start of this activity. The drum venting is now not expected to be performed until the week of December 29th, at the earliest. (II)

B. Building 9212 Oxide Conversion Facility (OCF). As noted last week, staff visited Y-12 to review instrumentation and controls for OCF. This week, the staff and site rep. discussed observations from the review with Y-12 personnel via phone conference. Among the staff observations were: loss of power to hydrogen fluoride detectors that results in a control room alarm but not in automatic system isolation; and safety-significant electrical cable conduits that are not seismically qualified and may inhibit proper operation during a seismic event. Areas of planned staff review (e.g., a yet to be completed BWXT human factors evaluation for OCF) were also discussed. (II)

cc:

Board Members