

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 6, 2006

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: R. Todd Davis/Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for Week Ending January 6, 2006

A. Uranium Processing Facility. BWXT is currently finalizing the Uranium Processing Facility conceptual design in support of Critical Decision-1 (i.e., alternative selection and cost range). Next week, an Independent Project Review team consisting of 17 DOE Headquarters personnel will be on-site reviewing the current conceptual design package. Facility detail design is expected to commence in mid-2006 following approval of the Critical Decision-1 package.

B. Uranium-233 Disposition at ORNL. As reported on June 24^h, a DOE-ORO design review team had presented the results of the 90% Design Review for the Uranium-233 Disposition and Medical Isotope Production Program in Building 3019. Since the summer, the program has been under review by DOE and Congress. Recent direction from Congress has called for DOE to stop the portion of the program dealing with medical isotope production and provide a report on how DOE will manage the U-233 materials. This report is to be submitted to Congress by mid-January. This direction also included a change in DOE Headquarters responsibility from the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy to the DOE Office of Environmental Management. DOE-ORO management has since assigned personnel to develop the report. Transfer of responsibility for the U-233 materials and Building 3019 operations to the DOE-ORO Assistant Manager for Environmental Management is expected by the end of March.

C. Oak Ridge Radioactive Waste Management. To support processing of contact-handled transuranic waste at the Melton Valley Waste Processing Facility, Bechtel Jacobs Company (BJC) is planning a campaign to install filtered vents and sample ports in more than 2000 drums in storage at ORNL facilities. This campaign is planned to start in March. In a recent Startup Notification Report submission to DOE-ORO, BJC proposed that DOE and contractor Operational Readiness Reviews (ORRs) be performed to confirm readiness for these operations. The ORRs are expected to start in February.

D. Warehouse Characterization Activity. As a part of the preparations to transfer Warehouse materials to the new Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility (HEUMF), BWXT plans to characterize a number of uranium items that may be contaminated with plutonium. The items will be removed from their original packages then visually inspected and contamination levels determined to support disposition decisions (e.g., direct transfer to HEUMF, decontamination, or chemical processing). BWXT will repack the items based on the characterization results. Temporary glove bags have been erected in the Warehouse to support this activity. Decontamination, if necessary, is not within the scope of this initial characterization activity. The temporary glove bags are now in place and BWXT continues to develop procedures and train operators. BWXT has proposed a contractor Readiness Assessment to confirm readiness for this activity, now expected to occur in February.

cc
Board Members