

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 17, 2006

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: R. Todd Davis/Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for Week Ending November 17, 2006

Board members Larry Brown and Peter Winokur along with staff members Timothy Dwyer, Richard Tontodonato and Matthew Duncan visited Oak Ridge this week.

A. Board Members Visit. Board members Brown and Winokur and staff held discussions with Y-12 management on safety management and federal oversight. The Board members and staff observed operations at enriched uranium production and storage facilities as well as at the construction site for the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility (HEUMF). At the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the Board members and staff toured Building 3019 and the Melton Valley Waste Processing Facility.

B. Conduct of Operations. As reported on November 3rd, the staff and site reps. had inquired on any actions being taken or planned to be taken regarding Conduct of Operations deficiencies evident in several recent events at Y-12. This week, in discussion with staff and the site reps., YSO management acknowledged that a concern exists on Conduct of Operations performance. BWXT management noted that a lack of rigorous use and adherence to procedures and/or a failure to stop work upon a changing condition was evident in most of these events. Among a few actions recently taken, BWXT management noted that a management working group has been re-established that would examine operational events and the quality of line management follow-up. YSO and BWXT management noted that actions to address the recent Conduct of Operations performance deficiencies are to be defined by early December.

C. Building 9212 Facility Risk Review. Earlier this month, NNSA provided their risk review report to the Board in response to the Board letter dated November 28, 2005. The report identifies a prioritized set of facility upgrades considered necessary to ensure safe operations of Building 9212 over the next 15 years. This week, YSO management informed the site reps. that YSO also plans to brief the Board on the risk review in December.

D. Quality Evaluation Relocation. This week, BWXT began their Readiness Assessment (RA) for startup of the linear glovebox in the Assembly/Disassembly Building. The RA team completed field observations (e.g., glovebox startup, simulated quality evaluation operations, and drills) and expects to brief results of the RA next week.

E. Warehouse Containers. In October, BWXT identified a number of warehouse containers with questionable lid seals (see 10/20/06 site rep. report). These containers are being returned to the Enriched Uranium Operations Building for repackaging. BWXT also plans to inspect other stainless steel and carbon steel containers with similar seals to determine the extent of this condition. On Friday, BWXT management informed the site reps. that their technical basis evaluation of long-term storage of these containers in Rackable Can Storage Boxes, as intended for HEUMF (see 11/3/06 site rep. report), is now expected to be completed in December.