

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 15, 2006

**TO:** J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** R. Todd Davis/Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representatives  
**SUBJECT:** Activity Report for Week Ending December 15, 2006

On Thursday, Mr. Davis was at DNFSB-Headquarters for the NNSA briefing to the Board on the Building 9212 Facility Risk Review.

A. Building 9212 Facility Risk Review. This week, YSO briefed the Board on the Building 9212 Facility Risk Review (FRR) that was performed by Y-12 in response to the Board's letter of November 28, 2005 (see the 11/17/06 site rep. report). In May 2006, NNSA-Headquarters requested that Y-12 conduct the FRR to develop a prioritized list of improvements and actions necessary to ensure continued safe operation of Building 9212 for the next 15 years. A major assumption of the FRR is that the planned Uranium Processing Facility will be completed in that timeframe. The FRR addressed safety systems (e.g., building structure and fire suppression systems) and potential impacts to process systems that are required to reduce material-at-risk and meet mission requirements. The result of the FRR was a list of prioritized actions that focus on reducing material-at-risk (e.g., maintenance resources, critical spares and replacement of electrical components); however, most of the potential safety system upgrades were not included due to assumptions used in the analysis. YSO personnel noted that the FRR result is considered valid only for the next 15 years and that additional analysis and other actions would be needed for Building 9212 operation beyond 15 years. YSO has requested that BWXT perform similar reviews for Buildings 9215 and 9204-2E. The resulting prioritized lists of actions will be addressed in a new project execution plan that is to be developed by early next year.

B. Conduct of Operations. As reported on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 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. YSO and BWXT management had noted that actions to address Conduct of Operations performance deficiencies were to be defined. This week, BWXT submitted an action plan for Conduct of Operations improvement to YSO. The plan outlines an overarching action to reinforce expectations for proper Conduct of Operations to all levels of BWXT. This action includes line managers reviewing recent deficiencies with their personnel, communicating expectations for improved performance, and increased line manager and supervisor on-the-floor presence to evaluate performance. Additional actions were outlined to:

- reinforce proper adherence to procedures and improve response to changing conditions;
- evaluate the BWXT Management Assessment program in not preventing the recent problems;
- develop and conduct training on conservative decision making; and
- improve the conduct of pre-job briefs to ensure safety controls are understood and to identify where changing conditions specific to the job may warrant stopping work.

The plan also includes an action to evaluate and define improvements to the conduct of critiques following operational events. This action plan is to be implemented over the next three months.

C. Quality Evaluation Relocation. This week, BWXT started quality evaluation operations in the relocated linear glovebox in the Assembly/ Disassembly Building (see the 11/24/06 site rep. report). The site rep. observed initial quality evaluation operations.