

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 13, 2004

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representative
SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending May 14, 2004

The site rep. was out of the office from Tuesday through Friday.

A. Building 9212 Wet Chemistry Startup. Following completion of Operational Readiness Reviews in early 2003, YSO authorized startup of seven wet chemistry processes with enriched uranium in March 2003 (see the 3/14/03 site rep. report). Operations with enriched uranium have been started for five of the seven processes; enriched uranium has not yet been introduced, however, in the primary extraction and secondary extraction processes. The site rep. and staff inquired with YSO management on addressing the requirement in DOE Order 425.1, *Startup and Restart of Nuclear Facilities*, for a readiness review following extended shutdown of greater than one year for Hazard Category 2 nuclear facilities/activities. No review of readiness for these two processes was planned by YSO or BWXT. YSO management noted that most portions of the procedures for primary and secondary extraction processes have been exercised during the past year and that personnel have been required to be certified on these processes every six months. Responding to the staff inquiry, however, YSO management stated that YSO personnel will perform a review of personnel, training, equipment and procedures for the two processes with emphasis on any changes that have occurred since March 2003. YSO management indicated that this review is expected to be conducted in parallel with BWXT efforts to startup the primary extraction process during the week of May 17th (initial startup is conducted under “first use” management oversight controls); YSO management stated that YSO does not intend to direct any delay of BWXT startup efforts.

cc
Board Members