

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 16, 2002

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Donald Owen, Acting Oak Ridge Site Representative
SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending August 16, 2002

Outside expert R. Lewis was at Y-12 this week to observe the BWXT Integrated Safety Management (ISM) Annual Review.

A. BWXT Y-12 Enriched Uranium Operations (EUO) Wet Chemistry Restart: As of this report, closure of prestart findings from the line management Performance Self Assessment (PSA) was being completed. The BWXT Operational Readiness Review (ORR) is expected to start the early part of the week of August 19th, pending results of a BWXT senior management decision on line management readiness. The BWXT ORR is expected to take two weeks with most of the main process demonstrations planned during the first week. (2-A)

B. BWXT Y-12 ISM Annual Review: The first Y-12 ISM Annual Review commenced on Monday and is scheduled to complete by August 23, 2002. The review is being conducted by a competent 12-member team, nine of whom are from outside organizations. In addition to conducting a relatively independent review, the exchange of information dealing with ISM implementation techniques used at the various team members' sites is proving beneficial to the team and to Y-12.

Several potential findings being substantiated by the review team indicate that ISM at Y-12 is undergoing changes in implementation normally associated with a relatively new system (initial Y-12 ISM verification completed in November 2001.) Examples include: implementation of an Automated Job Hazard Analysis for activity-level work planning appears to have started without adequate line management involvement and control; instances in which recommended corrective actions were not acted upon; the effectiveness of some corrective actions was not evaluated; and revised processes instituted by upper level management in the areas of performance measures and budgeting that have not been reflected in the Y-12 ISM System Description.

The results of this review along with the recommendations from the upcoming January 2003 annual report of the BWXT Y-12 Feedback and Improvement Working Group will be used to update the Y-12 ISM System Description and associated documentation. (1-C)

C. BWXT Y-12 Assembly/Disassembly Operations: This week an item was dropped during a lift by hand from its container to a table in preparation for radiography. The heavy item fell an estimated 4 inches to the floor, damaging the item. While this design item has been manually lifted many times in the past, the apparent cause is use of gloves that were too large. Properly fitting gloves were not available in the work area. The worker did not stop and obtain properly fitting gloves. With the gloves being used, the item slipped from the worker's grasp. Corrective actions are being completed. (2-A)