

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 6, 2002

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Matt Forsbacka, Oak Ridge Site Representative
SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending September 6, 2002

The Oak Ridge Site Office was closed on Monday in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

A. BWXT Y-12 Enriched Uranium Operations (EUO) Wet Chemistry Restart: The BWXT Y-12 Operational Readiness Review (ORR) was completed this week, and the final report will be issued next Monday. Two of the planned practical evolutions could not be performed at all. In one case, equipment problems with the Primary Extraction system prevented the demonstration of a back wash procedure. In another instance, personnel had not yet completed the necessary training to demonstrate a filter change out procedure. The BWXT Y-12 ORR team has developed a number of substantive findings that identify significant issues with equipment status, test plans, and the adequacy of training. The ORR team will recommend to BWXT Y-12 management that the Wet Chemistry system not be restarted at this time.

On Wednesday, the Site Representative met with BWXT Y-12 personnel to discuss their immediate corrective actions to address operational and maintenance procedure problems identified by the BWXT Y-12 ORR team. BWXT Y-12 has started a comprehensive review of all Wet Chemistry procedures that involves an independent review of each procedure followed by at least two practice evolutions observed by management oversight personnel. The intent of the demonstrations is to show that the procedures can be fully exercised without error. This will comprise a significant effort. The Site Representative will observe the verification and validation efforts as well as the practical demonstrations. This review is targeted for completion by the end of September. (2-A)

B. BWXT Y-12 Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility (HEUMF): On Thursday, the Site Representative and the YSO program manager for HEUMF observed BWXT Y-12 subcontractor personnel perform geotechnical survey activities in support of seismic characterization of the proposed building site. This effort, recommended by consultants from Bechtel Corporation (see weekly report for January 25, 2002), will be carried out over the next several weeks. (1-C)

C. BWXT Y-12 Building 9201-5 Maintenance Outage: Last Friday, BWXT Y-12 completed a scheduled maintenance outage for Building 9201-5 (Alpha-5). BWXT Y-12 managers cited a high degree of cooperation and coordination between the Manufacturing Organization and the Facilities, Infrastructure, and Services Organization. The number of work packages completed during this maintenance outage exceeded the original planned baseline for maintenance activities by nearly 20 percent. The next planned outage will be conducted in Building 9202, Development, in October. (2-A)