

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 6, 2002

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director

FROM: Tim Hunt, Oak Ridge Site Cognizant Engineer

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending December 6, 2002

Staff member Don Owen was on site this week providing site representative coverage.

A. BWXT Y-12 Enriched Uranium Operations (EUO) Wet Chemistry Restart Preparations: On November 26th, BWXT Y-12 submitted its Plan of Action (POA) for a focused contractor Operational Readiness Review (CORR), currently scheduled for the weeks of December 9th and 16th. Y-12 Site Office (YSO) personnel provided comments to the contractor on the proposed scope of the CORR and, as of this report, a POA revision and YSO approval are pending.

Readiness preparations continue, including practice and final line management demonstration runs of the wet chemistry processes and completion of emergent maintenance actions. BWXT Y-12 management intends to declare readiness by December 9th, though maintenance actions on the denitrator system and wiped film evaporator system are not expected to be completed until December 12th.

The site representative observed a demonstration of the secondary intermediate evaporator system operation (with portions simulated). The demonstration was generally satisfactory, however, the site representative noted that floor checks of certain tank levels were not being performed during the operation, as required. The operators were interpreting the procedure to allow either floor checks or checks via the remote computer control system indications. The site representative discussed this issue with the YSO Facility Representative and EUO management. Both agreed that the intent of the procedure was to perform each check. A procedure clarification is being completed. (2-A)

B. BWXT Y-12 Building 9204-4: As previously reported (see October 18th, October 25th, and November 8th reports), there was a near-miss occurrence during a machining operation which involved the energetic ejection of a 150 pound steel object. Last week, the BWXT Y-12 investigation team issued its report with the most significant *Judgement of Need* calling for a formal mechanism by which weapon system specific information regarding potential hazards would be transmitted by the design agency. BWXT Y-12 expects to identify corrective actions by mid-December. (2-C)

cc

Board Members