

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 21, 2001

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Matt Forsbacka and Paul Gubanc, Oak Ridge Site Representatives
SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending December 21, 2001

A. DOE Oak Ridge Operations - Environmental Management (DOE-ORO/EM): This week, senior corporate officers of the Bechtel Jacobs Company (BJC) were in Oak Ridge to assist BJC. They included Steve Leidle (former President of Bechtel Hanford), Bill Gay (BBWI Manager of INEEL Operations) and Steve Richardson (Jacobs Engineering and former ORO Deputy Manager). Gubanc is scheduled to meet with Leidle and Richardson on January 2. (1-C)

B. Y-12 Building 9206: BWXT completed their Operational Readiness Review (ORR) for pyrophoric material stabilization with 11 pre- and 2 post-start findings. Highlights:

1. The glovebox operators and supervisor were praised for their conduct and proficiency. There were no findings relative to their performance.
2. Several pre-start findings were disturbing: a) some administrative controls from the BIO were not flowed down to the OSR or procedure; b) a hazardous material was found to exceed the BIO inventory limit and the facility inventory record did not reflect this, and; c) the ORR examined 6 of 12 closed MSA pre-start findings and found 5 were not fully effective.
3. Discussion of the two calibration findings revealed that maintenance personnel did not receive the same type of pre-ORR evaluated practice sessions as did the glovebox operators.

The BWXT ORR report is expected to be issued on December 21. The team recommended startup following closure of the pre-start findings. The DOE ORR is expected in January. (3-A)

C. Y-12 Dismantlement: On Friday, the Equipment Test and Inspection organization conducted tests on a mock unit in an attempt to reproduce the conditions in which the lifting fixture, used in the Phase II Disassembly program, dropped its load. The fixture is a gripping device which relies on friction to secure the load. Previous tests showed that very little torque is required on the turnbuckle to provide the necessary band tension to ensure that the load will not slip out when the fixture is applied squarely. The demonstrations showed that it is possible for the load to drop with the fixture grossly misaligned, however, it is indeterminate that the incident can be replicated. This demonstrated the importance of fully characterizing tooling and fixtures prior to employing them in the field. BWXT now understands that fixture positioning, and not torque, is the critical parameter to secure the load. BWXT is redesigning the fixture to include brackets for positioning and squaring the fixture on the load and should reflect these changes in operator training and procedures. (2-A)

D. Federal Employee Training: On Wednesday, Gubanc observed a Y-12 Facility Representative oral board; both the board's and the candidate's performance were very good. In a separate matter, the DOE Technical Intern Program will be sending its interns to Oak Ridge this spring for two weeks of training, including Conduct of Operations and Integrated Safety Management. Given ORO's weaknesses in these areas, instructor selection will certainly merit scrutiny. (1-B)

cc: Board Members