

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 21, 2000

**TO:** G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Paul F. Gubanc and David T. Moyle, Oak Ridge Site Representatives  
**SUBJ:** Activity Report for Week Ending January 21, 2000

The office was closed Monday for the federal holiday. Staff member Helfrich and Outside Expert Lewis were at Y-12 reviewing work controls. Staff member Hunt attended a DOE meeting at Y-12 Building 9206 on Friday.

A. Y-12 Building 9212: On January 14, DOE concurred with LMES' proposed scope for the Operational Readiness Review to resume fissile material handling operations. DOE noted that the scope would need to be validated against the results of the 9212 criticality safety walkdowns. DOE also stressed that management's commitment to conduct of operations would need to be demonstrated in restart planning, corrective actions development, and during the ORR. (2-A)

B. Y-12 Building 9206: On Friday, staff from DOE-DP, DOE-OR, LMES and the DNFSB walked down and discussed the hazards in Building 9206, including DOE's inadequate response to the Board's November 2, 1999 letter. LMES reiterated the activities they have planned for FY 2000 including the transfer of canned uranium material to USEC, preparations to stabilize pyrophoric material, preparations to drain solutions from process equipment, and holdup surveys in ductwork. Notwithstanding these activities, we impressed upon DOE the importance of producing a technically justified multi-year schedule committing to meaningful risk reduction at 9206. (3-B)

C. LMES Restructuring: On January 18, LMES implemented its new organizational structure which completes the realignment of LMES from a five-site, 15,000 person organization to a Y-12, 4300 person organization. A review of the new organization reveals the following:

1. With only a few exceptions, the management team appears largely unchanged, even for several of the organizations which have displayed difficulty in the recent past.
2. Enriched Uranium Operations remains separate from the other manufacturing and storage facilities. This is expected to change following the completion of restart.
3. A separate Modernization organization has been established but its manager is not yet installed.
4. Several deputy facility manager positions, which had been installed to instill formal conduct of operations principles in career Y-12 managers, have been eliminated.
5. The Operations Assurance and Compliance group, which was created in 1999 to compensate for ineffective and poorly integrated corrective actions within Y-12, has been eliminated.
6. "Design authority" responsibility is established within the central Engineering organization though the facility process engineers still continue to reside in the operating organizations.

In our view, this reorganization does not represent a radical change although it will require the expenditure of significant resources to update the related policies and procedures.

D. Meeting With State Representatives: On Tuesday, the Site Reps joined the Technical Director in meeting with representatives from the Tennessee Governor's office and Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) in Nashville. The discussion primarily focused on the Board's role and interface areas with the state, specifically clarifying the Board's responsibilities and interests relative to Y-12, Building 9206 and ORNL TRU waste. The Site Reps are scheduled to meet with representatives from the local TDEC office on February 10.

cc: Board Members