

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 2, 1998

TO: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: P.F. Gubanc, Oak Ridge Site Representative

SUBJ: Activity Report for Week Ending July 3, 1998

Mr. Gubanc was on leave Monday. Staff members Andrews and Zavadoski were at the Y-12 Plant this week reviewing safety basis controls and ventilation for Phase A2 restart of enriched uranium (EU) operations. Staff member Gwal was also at Y-12 this week to follow up on electrical issues identified during the review of EU Phase A1. Both Thursday and Friday are Oak Ridge contractor holidays (Y-12, ETTP and ORNL). This office will be closed Friday for the holiday.

A. Y-12 Fire Systems: Some of the fire systems at Y-12 are designed to be dry when in standby (Viking Fire Cycle system); a high temperature signal opens the control valve which supplies water to the sprinkler manifold. The operational safety requirements (OSRs) for these systems require semi-annual testing to assure the water supplied up to the control valve is of adequate flow and pressure. A pressure gauge is used to measure supply header pressure before and during the test.

On Tuesday, while testing one of these systems, the contractor identified that the pressure gauge used for this test was isolated from the supply header by a check valve which would not permit the gauge to follow supply header pressure. Further investigation revealed the same deficiency on three additional Fire Cycle systems and realization that the systems had not been built to design. The vendor specifically provided a connection for a test gauge but these gauges were never installed.

Fire patrols were established until calibrated gauges could be attached to the appropriate locations and the tests performed. DOE and the contractor are continuing discussions about recovery actions and the configuration control of safety related systems.

B. Y-12 Employee Appreciation Day: On Tuesday, July 7, Lockheed Martin Energy Systems (LMES) is hosting an employee appreciation day at the Y-12 Plant (a one-time event). Attendees are expected to include U.S. Congressmen John Duncan and Zach Wamp, DOE Assistant Secretary Vic Reis, and Lockheed Martin Energy and Environment Sector President Bob Stevens.

C. Administrative: This week, Mr. Gubanc completed the written examinations for General Employee Training, Criticality Safety, Radiological Worker II and Basic Respirator Training. Next week's goal is complete the exams for Radiological Worker II (evaluated exercise), EU Operations Access, and respirator physical and fit testing.

cc: Board members