

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 11, 1998

**TO:** G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

**FROM:** Paul F. Gubanc, Oak Ridge Site Representative

**SUBJ:** Activity Report for Week Ending December 11, 1998

Staff members Helfrich and Von Holle visited Y-12 this week to review ORO and Y-12 activities associated with chemical vulnerability. Staff members Burnfield, Troan and Outside Expert Volgenau were also at Y-12 reviewing integrated safety management at the activity level with specific emphasis on Bldg 9212 E-Wing airborne contamination and installation of the new hydrogen fluoride system.

A. Y-12 Enriched Uranium Operations (EUO) Restart: As of December 11, EUO Phase-A2 preparations for restart are as follows:

1. Completion of EUO Phase-A2 pre-start punchlist actions is expected early next week. The limiting item is upgrading the safety class of a portion of the sprinkler system to address a vulnerability in the fire hazards analysis for 9212 C-1 wing.
2. There are eleven corrective action plans which still require closure. EUO has submitted five of these to the DOE Y-12 Site Office (YSO) for closure.
3. YSO has prepared an Authorization Agreement amendment for issuance once they are satisfied with LMES closure of pre-start open items.

Restart of EUO Phase-A2 processes is expected next week.

B. EH Review Closeout: Mr. Podonsky and his staff conducted their Y-12 review closeout with DOE and LMES on December 7. As mentioned previously, emergency preparedness was highlighted as being in need of significant improvement. Examples cited include:

1. In April 1998, Oak Ridge Operations (ORO) approved the reservation-wide emergency plan but to date none of the contractors have issued an approved site-specific appendix. (ORO designated LMES as the lead contractor for the reservation emergency response program.)
2. Only one of 17 reservation-wide emergency plan implementing procedures have been issued.
3. In September 1998, DOE directed LMES to defer implementation of critical program elements and has yet to provide guidance on resolving funding shortfalls.

EH identified numerous other reservation-wide and Y-12 specific deficiencies. YSO and LMES have both recently reassigned personnel to specifically address this problem area.

C. ORO Facility Representatives: ORO has a "Fac Rep Working Group" which meets monthly, includes Fac Reps from each of the three major ORO programs (DP, EM and ER), and is currently working to revise the ORO Fac Rep Program Manual. On December 10, the ORO Deputy Manager, Steve Richardson, met with this group and stressed his desire to have standard core expectations for ORO Fac Reps (e.g., be knowledgeable of and assess to facility authorization bases). He also asked their opinion of why external assessors are finding issues not previously found by the Fac Reps. I reminded Mr. Richardson that in some instances the Fac Reps find issues but the "bad news" gets filtered out by others before reaching his office. I also suggested he consider whether the *facility* focus of the ORO program was unduly constraining. Fac Reps often uncover site-level problems which reflect poorly on other ORO offices and the Fac Reps are directed to "get back in their box."

cc: Board members