

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

TO: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: Wayne Andrews and David Kupferer, Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending October 8, 2010

Special Material Capability Project. This week, B&W completed its Readiness Assessment (RA) for the startup of the special material capability glovebox and issued its report (see the 10/1/10 and 9/17/10 reports). The RA team identified three pre-start findings related to the following: (a) inadequate implementation of passive design features required for criticality safety, (b) deficiencies in operating and alarm response procedures and (c) weaknesses in conduct of operations associated with procedure violations. The RA team also identified weaknesses in the drill they observed and noted that conduct of drills should be improved. B&W has closed the pre-start findings and requested that YSO authorize startup of nuclear operations in the glovebox.

B&W documented detailed lessons learned during execution of the Special Material Capability project (e.g., seal, valve, and pipe welding issues). These lessons learned documents have been transmitted to the UPF project team and incorporated into the UPF lessons learned database (see the 8/6/10 report). The site representatives note that the primary operating procedure for the special material capability glovebox contains more than 80 precautions and limitations in the front section of the procedure. B&W is in the process of identifying actions to reduce unnecessary upfront precautions and limitations in all production procedures (see the 8/13/10 and 7/16/10 reports).

Nuclear Facility Risk Reduction (NFRR) Project. This week, DOE's Office of Project Management and Systems Support (NA-54) conducted an Independent Project Review (IPR) of the NFRR Project (see the 9/3/10 report) to support Critical Decision-2/3A (CD-2/3A). The IPR committee identified one action item related to defining key performance parameters that needs to be resolved prior to the committee recommending that the Acquisition Executive approve the CD-2/3A package. DOE's Energy Systems Acquisition Advisory Board is scheduled to review the CD-2/3A package later this month.

U-233 Disposition Project. This week, the core team for the U-233 Disposition Project Alternatives Analysis met in Oak Ridge (see the 10/1/10 and 8/13/10 reports). The purpose of this meeting was to assemble representatives from the various stakeholders across the complex (e.g., DOE Headquarters, Savannah River Site, Idaho National Laboratory, Nevada National Security Site, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, etc.) and to develop a plan for the U-233 disposition alternatives analysis. There are more than 1000 containers in the scope of the Uranium-233 Disposition Project that store several chemical forms of material. The first objective of the core team is to identify which containers can be shipped without any processing (e.g., downblending). Next, the team plans to identify other processing and/or disposal options for the remainder of the containers. Concurrently, Isotek is planning to complete the design of the U-233 Disposition Project by May.

Y-12 Contract. Last week, DOE extended B&W's contract to manage and operate Y-12 through September 2011 with an option for two 3-month extensions. DOE is still developing a Request for Proposals to award a multi-site contract for a single contractor to jointly manage and operate Y-12 and the Pantex Plant (with an option to manage and operate tritium operations at the Savannah River Site).