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 December 24, 2010

Maintenance/Conduct of Operations. During the past five months, a YSO Facility Representative for wet chemistry operations in Building 9212 identified two instances in which B&W had not identified appropriate isolation points in the scope of a lockout/tagout (LO/TO) permit to support maintenance work. The first instance occurred in July and involved work to replace a gasket associated with secondary extraction operations. The second instance occurred last month and involved work to clean a sight glass associated with the high capacity evaporator. In both cases, the isolation points were reviewed by the issuing authority and a subject matter expert (SME) from system engineering. B&W externally reported these events.

In response to these identified deficiencies, B&W recently issued a standing order that requires a second SME to review and concur with the isolations points identified in LO/TO permits developed to support work on process piping systems in Building 9212. B&W plans to conduct a management review of the LO/TOs applied to piping systems in Building 9212 during the next six months to identify additional corrective actions. B&W is still in the process of executing corrective actions developed in response to weaknesses identified in conduct of operations during maintenance activities earlier this year (see the 6/4/10 report).

Material Disposition. During the past decade, B&W has dispositioned (i.e., shipped off-site) more than 1500 metric tons of excess depleted uranium and more than 115 metric tons of excess enriched uranium (see last week's report). B&W is planning to disposition the remaining Y-12 inventory of excess depleted uranium by the end of 2012. B&W is planning to disposition the remaining inventory of excess enriched uranium as it executes projects related to the production of reactor fuels (including mixed oxide, research, and isotope production reactors) and uranium recovery.

Uranium-233 Disposition Project. Last week, DOE-ORO and Isotek jointly led an independent design review of the Uranium-233 Downblending and Disposition Project (see the 12/3/10 and 9/18/09 reports). The scope of this review only included the structures, systems, and components (SSCs) associated with Building 3019A (i.e., the review did not include the Building 3019 Annex; see the 11/6/09 report). DOE-ORO and Isotek are planning to lead a similar design review for SSCs associated with the Building 3019 Annex during the next few months. DOE Headquarters is planning to conduct a design review of the entire project this spring.