

## 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 March 23, 2012

**Uranium Processing Facility (UPF).** Last week, B&W issued its response to guidance submitted to the project by NNSA Headquarters last month (see the 2/17/12 report). B&W's response includes a plan for "Acceleration of the UPF Project to Support Building 9212 Transition." This Acceleration Plan proposes the following changes to the project:

- Begin shutting down operations in Building 9212 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 and achieve full operation of Building 9212 capabilities in UPF in FY 2023.
- Transition of operations from Buildings 9215 and 9204-2E will be deferred to accelerate the transition of capabilities from Building 9212. Given this deferment, NNSA Headquarters has requested an evaluation of potential incremental investments that may be required for facility risk reduction in Buildings 9215 and 9204-2E. This week, B&W and YSO initiated a study to re-evaluate the conclusions and recommendations of the 2007 Facility Risk Reviews for Building 9215 and 9204-2E (see the 1/20/12 report). This re-evaluation is expected to result in new recommendations for safe, extended operation of these facilities.
- Conduct both NNSA and B&W Operational Readiness Reviews to confirm operational preparedness for the base facility and supporting infrastructure systems. Conduct B&W Readiness Assessments for startup of each process area (i.e., NNSA would not conduct an independent Readiness Assessments for process systems and equipment).
- Revise current schedules for the preparation, review, and approval of safety basis documentation and related reviews to support acceleration. Safety basis documentation will also need to be reworked to address any new hazards associated with the phased completion of the project.

In addition, the Acceleration Plan identifies that the following capabilities need to be installed in existing facilities to facilitate accelerated transition of Building 9212 operations and deferment of Building 9215 and 9204-2E capabilities: (a) chip cleaning and briquetting need to be installed in Building 9215 by FY 2018, (b) Direct Electrolytic Reduction and Electrorefining need to be installed in Building 9215 by the end of FY 2016 (see the 8/26/11 report), and (c) a calciner needs to be installed in Building 9212 by FY 2016 (see the 5/13/11 report). This week, NNSA accepted B&W's Acceleration Plan.

**Work Planning and Control.** This week, B&W initiated its assessment of its work planning and control processes to include an evaluation of the effectiveness of actions it has taken in executing its Performance Improvement Plan (see the 1/20/12 and 11/18/11 reports). The scope of B&W's assessment includes verification of the following: (a) Y-12's programmatic procedures related to work planning and control are integrated, (b) the enhanced floor surveillance process is effectively driving continuous improvement, (c) work packages include appropriately identified boundaries and limits (i.e., the work scope identified in work packages is not overly broad), (d) work packages include appropriately identified hazards and associated controls, and (e) workers strictly adhere to procedures and take appropriate actions in response to unexpected conditions. B&W plans to complete its assessment within two weeks.