

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 11, 2007

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: R. Todd Davis/Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for Week Ending May 11, 2007

A. Recommendation 2004-2. In April, Y-12 personnel completed their evaluation of the Building 9212 Complex in accordance with Recommendation 2004-2, *Active Confinement Systems*. The review focused on the 21 process exhaust systems that provide filtered ventilation for Building 9212 processing activities. The review identified several system inadequacies with most of the Building 9212 process exhaust systems and developed potential upgrades for these systems including cost estimates. Based on existing facility safety basis controls, remaining life of this building and cost, the study does not recommend implementing all of these upgrades. However, several specific facility upgrades are proposed for improvement of the process exhaust systems. These upgrades have been captured in the a project execution plan along with other actions identified in the Building 9212 Facility Risk Review (see the 12/15/06 site rep. report).

B. Y-12 Infrastructure Supporting Manufacturing. As noted on February 23rd, the YSO Manager had requested that NNSA Headquarters commission an independent panel of industry experts to evaluate site infrastructure supporting manufacturing activities. In particular, the team is evaluating whether adequate resources are being made available for maintenance and support of systems that could impact site mission. This week, the independent panel was on-site to begin their evaluation. The team plans to return to Y-12 in the next few months to support completion of their review now estimated by late-Summer.

C. Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility. The site reps. walked down the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility construction site and discussed progress with project personnel this week. Construction is now more than 50% complete and is expected to be finished in early-Summer 2008. Corrective actions associated with the most recent reinforcing steel issues (see the 3/9/07 site rep. report) continue to be implemented. Notably, the actions to improve quality control inspection of reinforcing steel by both the construction contractor and BWXT are implemented. The team lead for previously performed corporate Quality Assurance (QA) reviews (see the 8/18/06 site rep. report) was also on-site this week to review QA implementation. BWXT is evaluating previous QA improvements that were focused on concrete placement (e.g., reinforcing steel installation) for applicability to Mechanical and Electrical installation activities.

D. Uranium Holdup Program. This week, the site reps. met with YSO and BWXT to discuss the status of corrective actions for the Uranium Holdup Survey Program (UHSP) and implementation of the new Inadvertent Accumulation Prevention Program (IAPP). For the UHSP, BWXT has completed the corrective actions identified as a result of the vacuum pump filter holdup issue (see the 7/28/06 site rep. report). BWXT also noted their intention of tracking holdup surveys as a part of the UHSP vice the current practice of facilities tracking completion of these as a surveillance (this has yet to be implemented). BWXT has completed 11 of 53 process system walkdowns using the IAPP process. The IAPP review provides additional options (e.g., engineered features, sampling) to address uranium holdup.