

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 7, 2007

TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: R. Todd Davis/Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Activity Report for Week Ending December 7, 2007

Mr. Davis was out of the office. Staff member David Gutowski was in Oak Ridge to augment site rep. coverage and observe a DOE-ORO design review for the uranium-233 disposition project.

A. Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility. This week, YSO issued a formal response to B&W's recommended path forward regarding lack of safety-significant classification for the water supply to the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility (HEUMF) fire protection system (see the 11/23/07 site rep. report). YSO directed the following: (1) use of safety-significant pressure monitoring of the water supply at HEUMF; (2) evaluation of planned water supply flow paths identifying any single valve mis-positioning or similar scenario that would adversely impact required flow and identification of safety basis controls to ensure sufficient flow is available (no specific schedule was directed); and (3) evaluation by May 2008 of a potential future tie-in to HEUMF of the safety-significant water supply for the planned Uranium Processing Facility.

B. Uranium-233 Disposition. DOE-ORO conducted a 60% Project Design Review of the Uranium-233 Downblending and Disposition Project in Building 3019 at ORNL. The DOE-ORO review team was augmented by several DOE-EM headquarters and outside expert personnel. The team communicated several preliminary findings and observations to project personnel. Many of the findings and observations trace back to the following root categories: level of design maturity, quality assurance, and integration/interface between different project disciplines. The review team also noted that the planned Preliminary Documented Safety Analysis revision should be completed as soon as possible to determine any impacts on the design. A final report from the review will be issued by mid-January.

C. Building 9212 Annual Assessment. The staff and site rep. discussed progress in response to the Board's letter of March 13, 2007 with Y-12 personnel. This letter requested NNSA to provide an annual assessment of the adequacy of the Building 9212 Complex to support safe operations. The B&W team chartered to conduct the annual assessment has given a recent progress report to Y-12 management. The B&W team noted that replacement of certain electrical panels as outlined in the Facility Risk Review (FRR) has been completed but that projected Y-12 out-year budgets still do not include overall FRR funding needs (the FRR was a major NNSA action responding to the Board's letter of November 28, 2005). Observations regarding management of maintenance were also provided to Y-12 management.

D. Oxide Conversion Facility Restart. B&W has continued repair efforts for roof leaks since early-November when the planned "dry run" of the conversion process preparatory to the B&W Readiness Assessment (RA) was postponed (see the 11/02/07 site rep. report). B&W management now projects that the dry run will occur during the week of December 17th. The B&W RA is now planned to occur in January (see the 11/2/07 and 10/12/07 site rep. reports). YSO personnel noted to the site rep. the following regarding the planned YSO RA: a joint YSO/B&W RA Plan-of-Action (POA) is being developed, instead of separate POAs; YSO intends to conduct the YSO RA concurrent with the B&W RA; and, the YSO RA is largely intended to observe the B&W RA with little separate review unless a need becomes evident.