

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 24, 2006

**TO:** J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** R. Todd Davis/Donald Owen, Oak Ridge Site Representatives  
**SUBJECT:** Activity Report for the Week Ending February 24, 2006

A. Oxide Conversion Facility. This week, the site rep. observed resumption of system testing and introduction of uranium oxide to the Oxide Conversion Facility. This portion of system testing is intended to verify transfer capability and to evaluate material hold-up in the process systems. Initial indications from the first test are that the transfer systems functioned as designed and that excessive hold-up was not observed. Non-destructive assays (NDA) will be conducted early next week to further characterize holdup. BWXT plans to proceed with additional testing next week following the NDA.

As noted on January 20<sup>th</sup>, BWXT performed B-1 Wing scrubber modifications to resolve instrumentation problems observed during earlier testing. These modifications were not tested in the transfer test operations this week. Hydrogen fluoride testing to confirm the success of the scrubber modifications is now planned for March.

B. Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility. Limited construction work for the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility (HEUMF) was allowed to resume this week with additional compensatory measures (see site rep. reports since January 13<sup>th</sup>). No rebar work or concrete placement on HEUMF safety structures is permitted under this limited resumption. The external review report (noted last week) is pending and BWXT continues to complete causal evaluations and extent of condition reviews that will be factored into overall corrective actions.

C. Oak Ridge Transuranic Waste Processing. As reported on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, the first drums and boxes were received at the Melton Valley Waste Processing Facility and the first box processed in the box breakdown area. This week, staff members Ogg and Winters and the site rep. observed processing of one of the initial drums in the main glovebox. The staff and site rep. also reviewed Bechtel Jacobs Company (BJC) preparations for a campaign to install vents and sample ports in drums stored at ORNL in preparation for processing at Melton Valley (see the 1/6/06 site rep. report).

D. Quality Evaluation Relocation. BWXT continues construction and other readiness activities to support operation of the linear glovebox (the first of two gloveboxes being moved from the Quality Evaluation building to the Assembly/Disassembly building). The site reps. walked down the construction area and discussed project status, readiness activities and construction quality assurance. BWXT expects construction activities along with procedures and safety basis documents to be completed in April. An engineering test plan has been developed that identifies system testing and associated acceptance criteria to verify system performance. The site reps. inquired with YSO and BWXT personnel about construction quality assurance and whether additional (compensatory) measures were being pursued given other recent construction quality issues (see the 2/10/06 site rep. report). BWXT project personnel noted that such compensatory measures had not been determined for this project. YSO and BWXT personnel indicated to the site reps. that compensatory measures would be developed to ensure that on-going site construction activities are consistent with design drawings and other requirements.