

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 3, 2009

TO: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director  
FROM: Donald Owen and David Kupferer, Oak Ridge Site Representatives  
SUBJECT: Activity Report for Week Ending April 3, 2009

**Building 9212.** In response to the risks of operating Building 9212 noted in the Board's letter dated March 13, 2007, the Continued Safe Operating Oversight Team (CSOOT) has issued its second annual report to YSO (see the 5/5/07 and 3/13/09 site rep. reports). In its report, the CSOOT concluded that no safety issues or performance trends have been identified that would provide reason for limiting Building 9212 operations. Positive indicators identified by the CSOOT during the past year include the following:

- improved operational availability
- reduced uranium inventory in safe bottles
- funded 100% of baseline maintenance
- funded some Facility Risk Review (FRR) recommended maintenance
- purchased additional spare parts
- obtained Critical Decision-0 approval for the Nuclear Facility Risk Reduction project
- conducted a two-day operational stand-down to facilitate facility clean-up activities

Based on prior staff observations (see the 8/29/08 site rep. report), the CSOOT recommended that electrical cable aging should be addressed as part of the 9212 aging management program. The CSOOT also plans to consider funding and schedule progress of the Uranium Processing Facility during future deliberations. YSO emphasized in forwarding the CSOOT report to NNSA Headquarters that there is a risk in continuing to operate an over 50-year-old facility with scarce material history data to support an effective aging management program and that safe operation beyond 2022 (the evaluation period of the FRR) may not be practical.

**Quality Assurance (QA).** Recently, B&W's senior management announced its intention to improve execution of QA across the site (see the 3/13/09 site rep. report). To that end, a B&W senior manager has been assigned to be responsible for developing site-wide improvement actions during the next 90 days. Specifically, she has been tasked to establish an execution-focused "Conduct of Quality Program," create compensatory measures until more consistent execution of the QA function is demonstrated, and assess the organization's structure and associated roles and responsibilities to identify potential QA-oriented improvements. Because this effort is intended to address QA improvements in procurement, engineering, construction and projects, a B&W Senior Management Team consisting of applicable Division Managers and upper management has been formed to evaluate and guide the improvement actions that are developed during this initiative.

**Uranium Processing Facility (UPF).** NNSA recently commissioned a team of outside experts to perform an independent review of the nuclear safety posture of UPF and assess the cost effectiveness of the current safety design strategy. This two-week review began this week.

**Building 9204-4 Deactivation.** YSO has concurred with B&W's request to cancel the nuclear safety basis for Building 9204-4 (see the 3/27/09 site rep. report).