

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 9, 2001

**TO:** J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Paul F. Gubanc and David T. Moyle, Oak Ridge Site Representatives  
**SUBJ:** Activity Report for Week Ending March 9, 2001

Outside expert West visited Y-12 to observe the BWXT Operational Readiness Review (ORR) for reduction and pour-up. Staff members Massie, Zavadoski and Zull visited ORNL to review preparations for U-233 inspections at ORNL Building 3019. Outside Expert Lewis assisted with site rep reviews of the BWXT Y-12 ISM verification and the Y-12 emergency exercise, and the staff's review at Building 3019.

A. Y-12 Enriched Uranium Operations Restart: The BWXT ORR for reduction and primary extraction pour up operations began on Monday. The pour up evolutions are complete. Reduction evolutions were impacted by both the site emergency exercise on Wednesday, and the late completion of last week's Management Self Assessment. As a result, the ORR will extend into the middle of next week. There are several emerging issues but they should be easily resolved. In general, the operators performed their tasks very well. The ORR team has observed, however, several cases of only visual verification of valve position instead of hands-on manipulation (as is required) to verify valve position. Several relatively minor issues were noted with the procedures and other documentation, and some revisions are in progress. We are encouraged to see that the majority of our comments either have been or are being incorporated into the reduction procedures and the startup plan. (2-A)

B. Y-12 Emergency Exercise: On Wednesday, Y-12 conducted an emergency exercise involving a simulated explosion/fire, multiple casualties, and off-site radiological release. Field play by the city, counties and state agencies was also included. Moyle, Lewis and Gubanc observed activities at the incident command post, technical support center (TSC) and emergency operations center (EOC), respectively. Incident command demonstrated good control of the scene, responsibilities were delegated effectively, and information updates were timely. Information management and team work in the TSC were strengths. EOC operations, while improved, still suffer from weaknesses with strategy development and the TSC/EOC interface. Overall, noticeable improvement was noted from prior exercises and Y-12 continues to elicit open and frank criticism on how it can improve. (1-C)

C. Y-12 Integrated Safety Management (ISM): Some observations regarding BWXT's independent assessment of Y-12 ISM implementation (which continues through March 14):

1. While some improvements have been noted (e.g., work planning), many of the individual findings to date are similar or identical to findings from the last ISM review in August 2000.
2. Several of the corrective action efforts (e.g., overdue preventive maintenance) have not yet or only recently been issued making them too new to assess their effectiveness.
3. Joe King, NNSA-DP, and other members of his ISM team observed the BWXT assessment this week to judge the BWXT independent review team's performance and to discern whether a DOE verification in May 2001 is still appropriate.
4. Acknowledging that BWXT has not made the level of progress originally envisioned, YAO is reevaluating its contractor incentives on ISM. While not wanting to condone excessive delays, YAO also does not want BWXT penalized for issuing a critical and candid assessment. (1-C)

cc: Board Members