

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 31, 2000

**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 31, 2000

A. Building 9212 Fissile Material Handling and Storage: The DOE ORR was successfully conducted this week. The team issued one pre-start finding, four post-start findings, and recommended resumption of operations upon resolution of the pre-start finding (which was addressed today). In general, the team was very complimentary of the facility's readiness to proceed. Substantial improvements were noted in the procedure change and notification process, operator knowledge, material tracking, conduct of pre-job briefings, and team support throughout the management chain. The team did note some issues which were captured as findings.

- Lack of priority to resolve previously identified nuclear criticality safety deficiencies.
- Weaknesses with criticality safety requirement validation and implementation.
- Evidence that standing orders were not reviewed by all operating staff.
- Lack of DOE incentives for LMES to achieve systematic improvement plan goals.

We agree with the ORR team's conclusion that fissile material handling can be safely restarted. (2-A)

B. Readiness Review Process: The success and efficiency of the extremely limited scope ORR for Building 9212 fissile material handling and storage has had a positive impact on DOE management. In the past, DOE and the contractor became boggled up with semantics and resisted the use of an ORR or RA for readiness verification claiming they were overly burdensome. As a result of the most recent ORR, however, DOE management at Y-12 has recognized that independent verification of readiness is absolutely critical to DOE's success, and can be appropriately tailored to meet the required objectives. (1-C)

C. Recent Contract Matters: On April 1, UT-Battelle will assume responsibility as the prime contractor for ORNL. On March 21, DOE published the Final Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Y-12 contract. The due date for proposals is May 1, awarding of the contract is expected by August 1, and turnover to the winning contractor will occur on October 1, 2000. Per clauses L and M of the RFP, DOE's Y-12 contract evaluation criteria identify that 72.5% of the evaluation will be based on *oral* presentations covering ISMS (12.5%), EUO Restart (12.5%), Organization and Management (27.5%), and Approach for Technical and Business Functions (20%). (1 & 2)

D. DOE Field Presence: In preparation for the Board member tours next week, the DOE staff inspected the anticipated tour route this week. During these walkdowns, DOE identified concerns with rigging and handling practices and structural integrity issues on the HF dock. LMES has also claimed significant cleanup progress in Building 9212, E-Wing. The Board should recognize that what it observes next week is the result of significant, focused DOE and LMES attention. (1-C)

cc: Board Members