

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 14, 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 July 14, 2000

Staff members Winters and Green visited Oak Ridge to attend an "80% Design Review" for the Melton Valley TRU waste facility. Mr. Moyle visited DNFSB-HQ on Thursday to brief the Board on proposed new technologies for enriched uranium processing.

A. Y-12 Enriched Uranium Operations (EUO): EUO continues to pursue multiple parallel paths with limited success in an attempt to restore full metal production capabilities. A Mission Assurance Plan due out today will attempt to focus the path forward for success at EUO.

1. **Phase A Restart** - Since April, more than half of the phase A processes have been restarted, and the remaining processes may require two more months to restart. Some progress is being made to decrease the 9206 inventory by processing material in 9212 for shipment to USEC.
2. **Reduction Process** - The management self assessment (MSA) has been delayed more than a week to August 7. The DOE and LMES ORRs are now scheduled to start on August 28 and September 11. The staff will be conducting its own safety basis review on July 25 and 26.
3. **HF System** - In recent weeks, work on the HF system has slowed significantly in favor of new technologies. This Friday, however, EUO vowed a renewed vigor in pursuing the HF system, recognizing the long term need for purified metal that perhaps can not be produced otherwise.
4. **Metal Purification** - Metal purification is being actively pursued as a short term fix to the need for purified metal. Funding has been made available to procure metal purification equipment for use at Y-12 development. Additionally, ORNL will conduct proof-of-process experiments and provide initial data on operational parameters.

Our conclusion from the above is that any prior efforts at introducing a focused, disciplined approach to EUO Restart via "projectizing" have been overtaken by events and EUO's path forward has begun to vacillate amongst multiple, possible solutions. This is not to say that these efforts are technically incorrect, only that they are not being well integrated and fully considered. (2-A)

B. Y-12 Project Management (PM): This week, Paul Rice and Bill Bishop of the Y-12 PM Advisory Team reviewed the status of Y-12 PM corrective actions and assisted in the development of the HEU Materials Facility (HEUMF) Project Management Plan. Mr. Gubanc attended some of these sessions to prepare for the staff's review of PM next week. Key observations include:

1. Progress on DOE and LMES PM corrective action plans (transmitted to the Board on April 3):
 1. Y-12 Engineering appears to be meticulously reconstituting itself with specific attention towards controlling the implementation of its new "Design Authority" responsibility.
 2. Y-12's attempt to create generic PM processes and procedures and flow them down to the projects has floundered. LMES is changing its focus to using the HEUMF project as a pilot for developing PM procedures and processes which it can then use elsewhere.
 3. DOE's PM efforts have essentially gone nowhere since DOE-DP approved using the draft DOE-DP Construction Program Management Plan for Y-12.
2. The Advisory Team, while supportive of the working staff's efforts, admonished both DOE and LMES management for their failure to provide both leadership and resources to make modernization and the HEUMF successful. (1-C)

cc: Board Members