

**DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD**

July 9, 1998

**TO:** G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

**FROM:** P.F. Gubanc, Oak Ridge Site Representative

**SUBJ:** Activity Report for Week Ending July 10, 1998

Chairman Conway was at the Y-12 Plant Tuesday for the Lockheed Martin Energy Systems (LMES) "Employee Appreciation Day" ceremony. Staff members Helfrich and Moyle, and outside expert Ralph West were at Y-12 this week reviewing systems for Phase A2 restart of enriched uranium (EU) operations. Mr. Gubanc was on leave Friday.

A. Enriched Uranium (EU) Operations: Phase A2 of the resumption of EU operations was scheduled to receive an LMES Operational Readiness Review (ORR) on August 10. Due to continuing difficulties, LMES anticipates the Phase A2 schedule to slip approximately three weeks. LMES expects to formally communicate this schedule change to DOE next week. DNFSB staff reviews to date confirm that Phase A2 preparations do not support the current schedule. The staff's Phase A2 review plans are being adjusted accordingly.

B. Y-12 Training: The following observations were provided to Y-12 training personnel subsequent to completing respiratory protection and radiological worker (RW) qualifications:

1. The basic respirator computer-based exam had one answer which was incorrect. The responsible manager unfortunately replied only that "to err is human". I am pursuing with DOE a more proper response leading to correction of the error and a review of past exams.
2. The respirator training videotape and inspection checklist used to demonstrate proper respirator inspection, assembly, donning and doffing techniques are out of date, contain inconsistencies, and/or advocate poor doffing practices.
3. The RW course did not include any discussion of site-specific radiological hazards which would be encountered at the Oak Ridge sites. Since this training is accepted at all three Oak Ridge sites (Y-12, ORNL and ETTP), and some workers do transfer between the sites, it should describe the hazards present at each of the sites.
4. The respirator and RW practical exercises made good use of the materials and space available but could benefit from additional enhancements such as using actual alarms (instructors currently just tell you the alarm you "hear") and using equipment with known defects which the students would be asked to identify.

C. Administrative: This week, Mr. Gubanc completed the examinations for Radiological Worker II (evaluated exercise), EU Operations access, and respirator physical and fit testing. Mr. Gubanc is now qualified to enter EU operations facilities without an escort (verified Thursday).

cc: Board members