Y-12 puts out welcome mat

More than 2,000 employees and family members attended the Y-12 Family Open House held June 25. Employees were able to bring their families on site for a day full of activities. Exhibits and displays were set up across the east end of the complex with three different tours available:

- Beta-3 calutron facility
- Maintenance shops (Building 9720-6) and
- South ridge.

Entertainment was provided by the Y-12 Jazz Band, and food and refreshments were available for an entertaining and educational day of fun, history and reminiscing.

Secret City documentary premieres in Oak Ridge

The first 90-minute segment (titled The War Years) of the documentary film Secret City: The Oak Ridge Story premiered at Oak Ridge’s Tinsel-town theater on June 16 with more than 900 people in attendance.

The film provides a “virtual” visit to Y-12. The film features Y-12 as a major part of the Manhattan Project and was shown at the Tennessee Theatre during the Secret City Festival.

Helen Brown, a calutron girl in 1944, reminisces with Y-12’s Ray Smith.

Several calutron girls—those high school-aged girls who worked at Y-12 during the 1940s—were reunited during two separate June events that allowed the public, media and Y-12 site employees’ friends and family a rare opportunity to see inside Y-12. An unprecedented tour showcased the remaining Manhattan Project era electromagnetic separation devices (calutrons) used to create the atomic bombs that ended World War II.

Attendees of the two events could take a guided tour of the Beta-3 building, which showcased the calutrons. A video of calutron girl Gladys Owens played as tourists waited to go into the control room. Once inside the control room, calutron girls Helen Brown and June Cagey shared their Y-12 stories. Retired Y-12 engineer Connie Rolfing, who is 97, also provided details of what the site was like in the 1940s.

Although Owens claimed, “I wouldn’t have known what an atomic bomb was. I had never heard of it,” her work with the calutrons helped produce the bomb by separating fissile uranium-235 using huge magnets and vast quantities of electricity from the government-owned Tennessee Valley Authority.

Oak Ridge resident Peggy Stuart was on the final calutron tour when she pointed out to tour guide Ray Smith which calutron unit she worked at 60 years ago. Seizing the moment, videographers captured her memories as she visited the place where she helped make world history.

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Pennsylvania has signs by its road construction projects that read “Temporary Inconvenience, Permanent Improvement.” These signs would be just as appropriate on Bear Creek Road by our new Highly Enriched Uranium Manufacturing Facility currently being built. We are changing the landscape of Y-12, not just with our modernization efforts, but with enhanced security measures and innovative ways of doing business. Inevitably, with those changes come inconveniences, but if we can stay focused on what the long-term goal is, it’s much easier to deal with the temporary inconveniences.

Y-12 is on a path to permanent improvement. With construction beginning on the Two Turtle buildings (uranium storage and uranium processing facilities), and the publicly financed buildings soon to follow, things are changing at Y-12—quickly. The modernization plan is the right thing to do from a safety or security standpoint, and when we combine the two, we get a lot of bang for the buck. These new capabilities will also enable us to work smarter, with more efficiency than ever before.

We recently opened the Beta-3 calutrons to the public and some of the original workers from the Manhattan Project were on hand for the event. Those folks really experienced change at a rapid pace during World War II. Y-12 was built in a little over 18 months, and employees suffered quite a few inconveniences. When you talk to them about their experiences, they seem almost proud of the hardships they overcame. They were focused on one thing—doing their jobs and doing them well.

I have the utmost respect for those Y-12 veterans and what they were able to accomplish for our nation and the world, but the work we’re doing today is just as important. If we stay focused, just as our World War II-era predecessors did, there is no limit to what we can accomplish, and when we reflect back, we probably won’t remember many of those inconveniences. Instead, we’ll most likely remember the difference we made to a grateful nation.

Did you know ...

• Although buckling up is a habit for most of us, some drivers and car passengers still don’t use their seat belts.
• Organizations like the National Safety Council’s National Safety Belt Coalition exist to help educate drivers and passengers about the importance of seat belts and child safety seats. You can view the organization’s Web site at http://www.nsc.org/about_belts.html
• Seat belts help reduce the injuries drivers and passengers may receive during a traffic accident.

Buckling up saves lives!

Seat belt safety—it’s personal

To give real examples of employees and their family members who have been spared serious injury or death because they chose to use a seat belt, BWXTymes and YSource are running a series of personal accounts from Y-12 employees. Following is a personal experience from Frances Parrett, Environment, Safety and Health.

A friend and her husband were on the way to Nashville to visit family during a storm, and the roads were getting treacherous. An 18-wheeler truck began jackknifing in the lane next to them and came into the passenger side and over the hood of the car. As the car was crushed at the passenger front door, my friend was pushed away from the impact because she had her seat belt on and she was moving with the frame. She suffered broken ribs and bruises. The doctors said that she would probably have been crushed if she had not been wearing her seat belt. She lives today because of seat belts and is a firm believer in them.

If you have a personal experience where wearing a seat belt made a difference in your life, send a brief account to Melissa Leinart (6ml; 574-1621).

Drawing by 11-year-old Tori Wagner, who placed in the coloring contest at this year’s Safety Expo for outstanding safety slogan, “Safety is everything.”
ACREM heats up

What holds 56,000 gigabytes and can withstand a 2,300-degree furnace? Lee Bzorgi of Engineering knows the answer. In fact, he invented it.

Donna Lawson and Jason Spencer of Information and Materials Division were the custodians for a vast inventory of accountable classified removable media that was no longer needed. In fact, Spencer stated that they spent five hours each week on the required inventories and paperwork.

The destruction method for non-accountable media—degaussing and disposal—was not an approved method for accountable media, so Lawson and Spencer seemed destined to devote the majority of a day each week performing inventories.

Bzorgi had a solution. Melting was already recognized as an approved method. However, simply tossing the media in a heat source was neither efficient nor necessarily effective, so Bzorgi invented a tray that can withstand the heat of the furnace and make efficient use of that heat.

The tray can hold up to 1,000 disks, and 667 disks—56,000 gigabytes of information—were destroyed in the most recent burn. Further, these burns at Y-12 represent the first destruction of hard drives within the U.S. Department of Energy Complex.

Bzorgi noted that a bonus of this process is it generates “essentially no waste.” The circuit boards are recycled, and approximately 150 pounds of aluminum from the last two melts were also recycled.

So, thanks to a truly cross-functional effort that also included some quite skilled labor from Manufacturing (see sidebar), Spencer and Lawson now have some more productive time on their hands.

EFCOG recognizes Y-12 leadership

The Energy Facilities Contractor Group recently recognized the leadership of two Y-12 senior staff members at its Annual Executive Council Meeting. Pam Homing, director of Uranium Manufacturing Modernization, was elected vice-chair of the EFCOG Executive Council. Homing has been actively involved in EFCOG for the past three years and is the executive director sponsor of working groups on safety analysis and infrastructure management.

John Gertsen, division manager of Engineering, received an Award of Excellence for his efforts in establishing a working group on engineering practices. The initiatives of the Engineering Practices Working Group have been positively recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board. EFCOG is a volunteer organization directed by senior-level executives from DOE contractors. Members are committed to achieving DOE's goals through performance excellence by partnering with DOE and its stakeholders. EFCOG provides integrated, proactive contractor views on topics of common interest to DOE and its contractors.

Bad Signs!

Brad Martel of Engineering writes, “Post 9 is the guard post I go through every morning on the way to Building 9201-1. One side of the post has a sign that reads ‘Use Badge Reader and Hand Badge to Guard.’ On the other side of the post a sign reads ‘Use Phone for Guard Assistance.” Both are bad signs!”

Post 9 doesn’t have a badge reader for employees; the only reader is inside the post and is used by guards. It is not necessary to have a sign to instruct people to hand their badge to a guard at a guard post.

The second sign would be better if it were similar to what’s at Post 2: “Turnstile rotates freely to allow exit.” If you notice confusing or outdated signs at Y-12, forward the sign locations and a brief description of the wording to Melissa Leinart (6ml) of Public Affairs and Communications or via telephone at 574-1621. If your example is used in a future issue of the BWXTymes, you will receive a Y-12 golf umbrella.

ACREM destruction team

Information and Materials Division
Donna Lawson Donna Tackett
Pegge Moore Dale Wilson
Kerry Rosenberger Terry Whiteduck

Engineering
Lee Bzorgi

Safeguards and Security
Betsy Crawford O. J. Sheppard

Manufacturing (9201-1 Group)
Gary Andrews Thoress Johnson
Mike Ball E. A. Pergass
Don Bridges Jim Strickland
Rick Cross Rick Winter
Lonnie Ellison Jim Weaver
Wayne Gibson Lennie Winston
Bob Hoylash W.A. Young

Upcoming readiness workshop

BWXT Y-12 will host the Readiness Workshop, the fifth in a series of workshops, to be held Aug. 2-5. Staff members from the National Nuclear Security Administration, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and the U.S. Department of Energy will participate in the workshop. Richard Crowe, NNSA chief of Defense Nuclear Safety, and Matt Mouny, DNFSB staff member, will present information to workshop attendees.

The workshop will provide a unique opportunity to share lessons learned, ask questions, discuss processes and hear from various groups involved in all stages of the readiness process.

Contact Joe Crociata (u9c; 576-7141) if you are interested in attending the workshop. Additional information will be provided on YSource.

Topical areas to be discussed:
• an effective testing program;
• initial process/equipment start-up procedures;
• oversight/support structure for initial operations;
• integration of operational readiness requirements into the project plan and the impact on project duration;
• appliance of high-reliable organizational attributes to the project team;
• lessons learned from recent start-up/restarts;
• Integrated Safety Management and
design assumptions and features during project evolution.

Contract to be extended

BWXT Y-12’s contract to manage the Y-12 National Security Complex will be extended.

National Nuclear Security Administration officials announced June 1 that NNSA and BWXT Y-12 will begin negotiations for a new five-year contract expected to become effective Oct. 1. The current contract began in November 2000 when BWXT Y-12 took over management of the Y-12 Complex.

Dennis Ruddy, president and general manager of BWXT Y-12, received word of the contract extension in a letter from Bill Brumley, Y-12 site manager for NNSA.

—Condensed from a Y-12 news release, June 1, 2005

Y-12 opens its doors

Y-12 offered a rare glimpse of its facilities to the public and media during an open house event in June. CNN was one news outlet that captured the event and posted a story about Y-12 on its Web site.

The public and media saw the massive machines that were used to enrich uranium for the “Little Boy” bomb used to end World War II. The bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan 60 years ago.

Ray Smith of Projects and Y-12’s historian led the tour groups that viewed the calutrons.

“Don’t you know the people in Knoxville wondered what in the world was going on out here?” Smith said. “All this material was coming in, truckload after truckload, and nothing ever left.” Smith also led tours during the Family Open House also held in June.

Thanks received

Donna Vickery of Safeguards and Security received a letter of thanks from the 278th Regimental Combat Team for Y-12 employees’ contribution to the unit and the Family Readiness Group.

The letter from Maj. Jeffrey Brown and 1st Sgt. James Whalen stated that the mobilization to Iraq “has tested the fiber of the soldiers of this unit and has asked much of our wonderful families at home” and thanks Y-12 employees “for such a generous gift on our behalf.”

Donna Vickery prepares phone cards for our troops.
Controller organization actively promotes PPI

Productivity and Process Improvement applies not only to production areas but also to “paper-pushing” groups. One place Yellow Belt certification is being promoted in a big way is the Controller organization.

Ann Walden, a champion for PPI there, says, “I’m constantly encouraging employees to get trained and certified and become leaders in the program. It’s a way to improve our company accounting practices, for our group to get credit for a lot of what we do already and for individuals to add to their skills and be recognized for their special efforts.”

To visually encourage and reinforce participation in the program, Walden has placed posters outside her office that list Yellow Belts in training and their projects, and Yellow Belts awaiting training. She says, “The posters are a great way for me and everybody else to remember who’s in charge of which project and also to promote a little competition among our people.”

Although sometimes direct cost savings for the Controller organization may be difficult to capture, a successful PPI project is expected to lead to a better way of doing business. A recent example is Nicole Waters’ Yellow Belt project to standardize the timing of long-term disability bank account funding and the amount of money wired to the bank. The improvements to the process have resulted in a reduction in the average monthly balance maintained in the bank account, creating less variability, more consistency and increased cash management.

Walden also promotes PPI by awarding new Yellow Belts a $50 dinner gift certificate. “It’s a way of acknowledging the dual benefits—to both the company and the Yellow Belts,” says Walden. “I’m very pleased about the work our people have put into PPI projects so far, and I’m expecting even more people to take advantage of the opportunity to become Yellow Belts.”
Do not bypass any system or process. Systems and processes are created to ensure consistency and avoid problems. Fundamental 9 is championed by Jim Holland, Planning and Integration division manager. Fundamental 9 presents us with the opportunity to prevent undesired consequences by following established systems and processes.

We conduct all of the work at Y-12 through the use of systems and processes. Job hazards analyses and lockout/tagout are examples of safety-related systems. Some systems are necessary both for the individual project and/or program and for the people “downstream” who rely on the consistency and accuracy of this information. We implement systems and processes throughout the use of procedures. Without adherence to established systems, the company could not operate. Not only do systems reduce rework and ensure quality, they provide for compliance with laws and regulations.

Rigorously adhering to systems is good for the worker as well. They prevent injury, give us satisfaction in knowing that we are doing our jobs correctly the first time and every time, give us a standard approach to follow, and allow us to gauge our performance against the expectations for the job.

If you have an idea for a way to improve even a small aspect of your job, please speak with your supervisor about it. You need to make your systems and processes work best for you. And remember, it’s never ok to bypass a system or procedure.

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“In 1946, we were all safety conscious. As a secretary for the Analytical Chemistry organization, I wore safety shoes and a lab coat.”
Kathryn Odion Howard (namesake of “Katy’s Kitchen”)”

“This is the best Safety Expo yet! Safety Expo is an opportunity for us all to come together, stress safety, and have some fun.”
Kevin Finney

“Safety is a culture that BWXT Y-12 has brought to us. I focus on safety at work and at home; it’s become a way of life for me.”
Susie Neal

“Two years ago at Safety Expo, I visited a booth and found out that I have osteopenia. I am now receiving treatment for it.”
Sharon Ellis

“We need to practice safety day in and day out—other people’s lives depend on it. We’re sharing that message with the community.”
Jevon Peterson

“Employees can see the latest in personal protective equipment.”
Sherill Rowan

“Safety is important to me because I have a husband and daughter at home who depend on me.”
Rhonda Hagler-Redwine

“Safety is a main focus at Y-12. Any accident you can prevent is an injury you don’t have to recover from.”
Ed Ripley

“Safety is fundamental to everything we do. Safety Expo is a great event—I learn and have fun, too!”
David Dandurand

2005 Safety Expo—bigger and better!

Thousands were on hand for the fifth annual BWXT Y-12 Safety Expo held June 22 at the Oak Ridge Mall. This year’s Expo had more than 180 exhibitors, emphasizing environmental safety, workplace hazards, emergency preparedness, kitchen safety and fire safety.

“This is our biggest Safety Expo so far,” said Dennis Ruddy. “It’s just so great that the community and Y-12 can put this much energy behind safety.”

Employees can see the latest in personal protective equipment.”
Sherill Rowan

“Safety is important to me because I want to go home to my family each day just as I left them that morning.”
Rosanne Smith

“Safety is fundamental to everything we do. Safety Expo is a great event—I learn and have fun, too!”
David Dandurand

Internal Exhibitors’ Awards
• Most Interactive — Radiological Control (Radiation Safety Awareness)
• Best Visual Presentation — Quality Assurance (Backyard Safety and Rescued Dogs)
• Most Useful Information — Fire Protection Engineering, Systems Engineering and Design Engineering (Fire Safety)
• Most Safety/Health Related — Occupational Health Services (Blood Pressure, Beryllium, Hearing and Vision Awareness)
• Best in Show — Planning and Integration (Home Safety)

Coloring Contest Winners!

{Content continues on next page...}
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Coloring Contest Winners!

Thousands were on hand for the fifth annual BWXT Y-12 Safety Expo held June 22 at the Oak Ridge Mall. This year’s Expo had more than 180 exhibitors, emphasizing environmental safety, workplace hazards, emergency preparedness, kitchen safety and fire safety.

“This is our biggest Safety Expo so far,” said Dennis Ruddy. “It’s just so great that the community and Y-12 can put this much energy behind safety.”

“Employees can see the latest in personal protective equipment.”
Sherill Rowan

“Safety is a main focus at Y-12. Any accident you can prevent is an injury you don’t have to recover from.”
Ed Ripley

“Safety is important to me because I have a husband and daughter at home who depend on me.”
Rhonda Hagler-Redwine

“Safety is fundamental to everything we do. Safety Expo is a great event—I learn and have fun, too!”
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Fundamental 9—do not bypass any system or process

Systems and processes are created to ensure consistency and avoid problems.

Do not bypass any system or process; systems and processes are created to ensure consistency and avoid problems. Fundamental 9 is championed by Jim Holland, Planning and Integration division manager.

Fundamental 9 presents us with the opportunity to prevent undesired consequences by following established systems and processes. We conduct all of the work at Y-12 through the use of systems and processes. Job hazards analyses and lockout/tagout are examples of safety-related systems. Some systems are necessary both for the individual project and/or program and for the people “downstream” who rely on the consistency and accuracy of this information. We implement systems and processes through the use of procedures. Without adherence to established systems, the company could not operate. Not only do systems reduce rework and ensure quality, they provide for compliance with laws and regulations.

Rigorously adhering to systems is good for the worker as well. They prevent injury, give us satisfaction in knowing that we are doing our jobs correctly the first time and every time, give us a standard approach to follow and allow us to gauge our performance against the expectations for the job. If you have an idea for a way to improve even a small aspect of your job, please speak with your supervisor about it. You need to make your systems and processes work best for you. And remember, it’s never ok to bypass a system or procedure.

Fundamental 10—match the task with trained, qualified and properly equipped personnel

Match the task with trained, qualified and properly equipped personnel.

Scott Baker, division manager of Contracts and Special Initiatives, is the management champion for Fundamental 10.

What do we mean by “match the task”? It is a really simple concept. It is a matter of doing the right thing with the right people and the right equipment at the right time. Our mission is absolutely critical to the security of the nation. The nature of our work is unique and makes us susceptible to a variety of risks and hazards that are not commonly found in other businesses. We have industrial risks at our site. We work in aging facilities that present operational and safety challenges. And, we have risks and hazards related to construction projects under way. To meet the demands of our jobs here, it takes the right mix of training, qualifications and equipment.

We have baseline requirements for safety and security training, and we also have specific requirements for our individual jobs. Second, we have to understand the qualifications and requirements for our jobs. We must possess the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to meet our responsibilities. Third, we have to use the right tools and equipment to do the job. At Y-12, it also means using specialized tools and equipment, including protective equipment, to work with unique materials and processes. If we can match the task with the right people and the right equipment, we will be successful.

The success of our mission and our health, safety and potentially our lives depend on the answer.
The amount of time a quality evaluation glovebox is available for use has increased significantly because of a Process Improvement Project. During CY 2004, the glovebox was in operation about 44 percent of the time it was needed. Brian Gullett, the Black Belt who headed the PIP team, says, “The downtime put deficiencies at risk and led to significant overtime for downstream operations to recover schedules. Our goal was to bring the glovebox uptime to 80 percent.”

The causes for downtime included aging equipment, difficulty in obtaining spare parts and other maintenance and calibration issues. Two main improvements resulted—developing model work packages and keeping critical spare parts on hand. Completing a work package takes a significant amount of time. By preparing model work packages for four critical glovebox components in advance, repair work can begin quickly. Spare parts will be kept on hand if there’s a medium to high risk of failure and if the procurement lead time is unacceptable.

Other improvements include better planning for preventive maintenance, extending the time between equipment calibrations as warranted and upgrading certain equipment for better reliability at relatively low cost.

By the end of April of this year, the QE glovebox was operating 80 percent of the time needed. The changes are expected to result in a cost avoidance of about $5.5M for lost production time through CY 2008. Rick Shipley, Manufacturing, says, “The project was particularly helpful in focusing on root causes, and the metrics gave us the confidence to move forward. We are now working methodically to execute the improvement plan and are getting reliable results from the glovebox.”

A good thing Gullett points out is that process improvements for the glovebox can be applied to other equipment. “Based on similar PIPs, we have found that approximately 50 percent of the improvements are replicable to other critical equipment,” he says. Besides Gullett and Shipley, team members included Don Goble, Randy Treeze and Glenn Bridges of Engineering, Bill Pruitt of Manufacturing and Carl Cashwell of Directed Stockpile Work.

Controller organization actively promotes PPI

Although sometimes direct cost savings for the Controller organization may be difficult to capture, a successful PIP project is expected to lead to a better way of doing business. A recent example is Nicole Waters’ Yellow Belt project to standardize the timing of long-term disability bank account funding and the amount of money wired to the bank. The improvements to the process have resulted in a reduction in the average monthly balance maintained in the bank account, creating less variability, more consistency and increased cash management.

Walden also promotes PPI by awarding new Yellow Belts a $50 dinner gift certificate. “It’s a way of acknowledging the dual benefits—to both the company and the Yellow Belts,” says Walden. “I’m very pleased about the work our people have put into PIP projects so far, and I’m expecting even more people to take advantage of the opportunity to become Yellow Belts.”
What holds 56,000 gigabytes and can withstand a 2,300-degree furnace? Lee Bzorgi of Engineering knows the answer. In fact, he invented it.

Donna Lawson and Jason Spencer of Information and Materials Division were the custodians for a vast inventory of accountable classifiable removable media that was no longer needed. In fact, Spencer stated that they spent five hours each week on the required inventories and paperwork.

The destruction method for non-accountable media—degassing and disposal—was not an approved method for accountable media, so Lawson and Spencer seemed destined to devote the majority of a day each week performing inventories.

Bzorgi had a solution. Melting was already recognized as an approved method. However, simply tossing the media in a heat source was neither efficient nor necessarily effective, so Bzorgi invented a tray that can withstand the heat of the furnace and make efficient use of that heat.

The tray can hold up to 1,000 disks, and 667 disks—56,000 gigabytes of information—were destroyed in the most recent burn. Further, these burns at Y-12 represent the first destruction of hard drives within the U.S. Department of Energy Complex.

Bzorgi noted that a bonus of this process is it generates “essentially no waste.” The circuit boards are recycled, and approximately 150 pounds of aluminum from the last two melts were also recycled.

So, thanks to a truly cross-functional effort that also included some quite skilled labor from Manufacturing (see sidebar), Spencer and Lawson now have some more productive time on their hands.

Bzorgi of Engineering writes, “Post 9 is the guard post I go through every morning on the way to Building 9201-1. One side of the post has a sign that reads: ‘Use Badge Reader and Hand Badge to Guard.’ On the other side of the post a sign reads: ‘Use Phone for Guard Assistance to Exit.’ Both are bad signs.”

Post 9 doesn’t have a badge reader for employees; the only reader is inside the post and is used by guards. It is not necessary to have a sign to instruct people to hand their badge to a guard at a guard post. The second sign would be better if it were similar to what’s at Post 2: “Turnstile rotates freely to allow exit.”

If you notice confusing or outdated signs at Y-12, forward the sign locations and a brief description of the wording to Melissa Leinart (6ml) of Public Affairs and Communications or via telephone at 574-1621. If your example is used in a future issue of the BWXTymes, you will receive a Y-12 golf umbrella.

EFCOG recognizes Y-12 leadership

The Energy Facilities Contractor Group recently recognized the leadership of two Y-12 senior staff members at its Annual Executive Council Meeting. Pam Homing, director of Uranium Manufacturing Modernization, was elected vice-chair of the EFCOG Executive Council. Homing has been actively involved in EFCOG for the past three years and is the executive director sponsor of working groups on safety analysis and infrastructure management.

John Gortsen, division manager of Engineering, received an Award of Excellence for his efforts in establishing a working group on engineering practices. The initiatives of the Engineering Practices Working Group have been positively recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

EFCOG is a volunteer organization directed by senior-level executives from DOE contractors. Members are committed to achieving DOE’s goals through performance excellence by partnering with DOE and its stakeholders. EFCOG provides integrated, proactive contractor views on topics of common interest to DOE and its contractors.

ACREM heats up

The ACREM destruction team

Information and Materials Division
Donna Lawson Donna Tackett
Peg Moore Dale Wilson
Kerry Rosenberger Terry Whitecock

Engineering
Lee Bzorgi

Safeguards and Security
Betsy Crawford O. J. Sheppard

Manufacturing (Y201-1 Group)
Gary Andrews Thermon Johnatan
Mike Ball E. A. Pergass
Don Bridges Jim Strickland
Rick Creas Rick Watanabe
Lonnie Ellison Jim Weaver
Wayne Gibson Lennie Winston
Bob Heydach W.A. Young

ACREM destruction team

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Bad Signs!

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Donna Vickery of Safeguards and Security received a letter of thanks from the 278th Regimental Combat Team for Y-12 employees’ contribution to the unit and the Family Readiness Group.

The letter from Maj. Jeffrey Brown and 1st Sgt. James Whalen stated that the mobilization to Iraq “has tested the fiber of the soldiers of this unit and has asked much of our wonderful families at home” and thanks Y-12 employees “for such a generous gift on our behalf.”

Y-12 opens its doors

Y-12 offered a rare glimpse of its facilities to the public and media during an open house event in June. CNN was one news outlet that captured the event and posted a story about Y-12 on its Web site.

Upcoming readiness workshop

BWXT Y-12 will host the Readiness Workshop, the fifth in a series of workshops, to be held Aug. 2-5.

Staff members from the National Nuclear Security Administration, the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and the U.S. Department of Energy will participate in the workshop. Richard Crowe, NNSA chief of Defense Nuclear Safety, and Matt Mours, DNFNB staff member, will present information to workshop attendees.

The workshop will provide a unique opportunity to share lessons learned, ask questions, discuss processes and hear from various groups involved in all stages of the readiness process.

Contact Joe Crociata (u9c; 576-7143) if you are interested in attending the workshop. Additional information will be provided on YSource.

Topical areas to be discussed:
• an effective testing program;
• initial process/equipment start-up procedures;
• oversight/support structure for initial operations;
• integration of operational readiness requirements into the project plan and the impact on project duration;
• appliance of high-reliable organizational attributes to the project team;
• lessons learned from recent start-up/rotates;
• Integrated Safety Management and
design assumptions and features during project evolution.

Thanks received

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Y-12 contract extended

National Nuclear Security Administration officials announced June 1 that NNSA and BWXT Y-12 will begin negotiations for a new five-year contract expected to become effective Oct. 1. The current contract began in November 2000 when BWXT Y-12 took over management of the Y-12 Complex.

Dennis Ruddy, president and general manager of BWXT Y-12, received word of the contract extension in a letter from Bill Brumley, Y-12 site manager for NNSA.

—Condensed from a Y-12 news release, June 1, 2005

Ray Smith leads Y-12 tours. Smith said, “All this material was coming in, truckload after truckload, and nothing ever left.” Smith also led tours during the Family Open House also held in June.
Seating belt safety—it’s personal

To give real examples of employees and their family members who have been spared serious injury or death because they chose to use a seat belt, BWXTymes and YSource are running a series of personal accounts from Y-12 employees.

Following is a personal experience from Frances Parrett, Environment, Safety and Health.

A friend and her husband were on the way to Nashville to visit family during a storm, and the roads were getting treacherous. An 18-wheeler truck began jackknifing in the lane next to them and came into the passenger side and over the hood of the car. As the car was crushed at the passenger front door, my friend was pushed away from the impact because she had her seat belt on and she was moving with the frame. She suffered broken ribs and bruises. The doctors said that she would probably have been crushed if she had not been wearing her seat belt. She lives today because of seat belts and is a firm believer in them.

If you have a personal experience where wearing a seat belt made a difference in your life, send a brief account to Melissa Leinart (mle; 574-1621).

Did you know …

• Although buckling up is a habit for most of us, some drivers and car passengers still don’t use their seat belts.
• Organizations like the National Safety Council’s National Safety Belt Coalition exist to help educate drivers and passengers about the importance of seat belts and child safety seats. You can view the organization’s Web site at http://www.nsc.org/nsbinfo.htm.
• Seat belts help reduce the injuries drivers and passengers may receive during a traffic accident.

Buckling up saves lives!

Pat Porter makes his big-screen debut!

Comming soon is a movie with someone you might recognize: Pat Porter, well-known Environment, Safety and Health safety engineer, and his sons, Marc and Myron, recently worked on the set of The Work and the Glory, a story of love and religious intolerance. Supposedly set on the market docks of Savannah, Ga., in 1830, the filming actually took place in downtown Knoxville. This movie is the second in a series of Mormon productions. The first installment of The Work and the Glory is available on DVD. Porter and his sons mingled with the star of the movie, Brenda Strong, also known as the deceased housewife on the hit ABC series Desperate Housewives.

Two VIPs (very important programs) coming soon to Y-12!

Clarence “Einstein” Hill of Environmental Compliance explains Y-12’s Environmental Management System “theory.”

Y-12 EMS=P2C2

P2C2 summarizes our policy commitments to be good stewards of the environment: Protect the environment, Prevent pollution, Comply with requirements and Continual improvements.

An independent audit of the Y-12 Environmental Management System began July 25 to address activities managed by Y-12 and the integration of EMS into the Y-12 Integrated Safety Management System. EMS is part of the overall management system that incorporates environmental considerations into day-to-day operations and is designed to promote and sustain pollution prevention and continual improvement in our environmental performance.

Y-12 has chosen to model EMS on an international standard, ISO 14001, which requires each of us to be aware of our Y-12 environmental policy commitments. Beginning Aug. 22 through Sept. 2, a team from the Office of Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance (OA) will assess the effectiveness of environmental, safety and health systems and practices used by organizations in implementing integrated safety management at Y-12.

The focus will be on performance in protecting our workers, the public and the environment from hazards associated with our activities. Work planning and control, construction and maintenance, integrity of safety systems, implementation of EMS and hoisting and rigging practices are specific elements of EMS that will be evaluated.

The OA is the U.S. Department of Energy’s independent oversight organization, reporting to the Secretary of Energy.
Y-12 puts out welcome mat

More than 2,000 employees and family members attended the Y-12 Family Open House held June 25. Employees were able to bring their families on site for a day full of activities. Exhibits and displays were set up across the east end of the complex with three different tours available:

- Beta-3 calutron facility
- Maintenance shops (Building 9720-6) and
- South ridge.

Entertainment was provided by the Y-12 Jazz Band, and food and refreshments were available for an entertaining and educational day of fun, history and reminiscing.

Secret City documentary premieres in Oak Ridge

The first 90-minute segment (titled The War Years) of the documentary film Secret City: The Oak Ridge Story premiered at Oak Ridge’s Tinsel-town theater on June 16 with more than 900 people in attendance. The film provides a “virtual” visit to Y-12. The film features Y-12 as a major part of the Manhattan Project. The National Nuclear Security Administration and BWXT Y-12 are major sponsors of the documentary.

The remaining portion of the six-hour documentary is scheduled for completion by June 2006. Keith McDaniel of HP Video announced at the premiere that DVDs of The War Years will be available for purchase soon. The film was also shown at the Tennessee Theatre during the Secret City Festival.

Y-12 holds calutron tours

Several calutron girls—those high school-aged girls who worked at Y-12 during the 1940s—were reunited during two separate June events that allowed the public, media and Y-12 site employees’ friends and family a rare opportunity to see inside Y-12. An unprecedented tour showcased the remaining Manhattan Project-era electromagnetic separation devices (calutrons) used to create the atomic bomb that ended World War II.

Attendees of the two events could take a guided tour of the Beta-3 building, which showcased the calutrons. A video of calutron girl Gladys Owens played as tourists waited to go into the control room. Once inside the control room, calutron girl Helen Brown and June Cagley shared their Y-12 stories. Retired Y-12 engineer Connie Bolling, who is 97, also provided details of what the site was like in the 1940s.

Although Owens claimed, “I wouldn’t have known what an atomic bomb was. I had never heard of it,” her work with the calutrons helped produce the bomb by separating fissile uranium-235 using huge magnets and vast quantities of electricity from the government-owned Tennessee Valley Authority.

Oak Ridge resident Peggy Stuart was on the final calutron tour when she pointed out to tour guide Ray Smith which calutron unit she worked at 60 years ago. Seizing the moment, videographers captured her memories as she visited the place where she helped make world history.

Y-12 rib cook-off

For questions, contact Debbie Reed, 241-8558; Martha Foye, 241-5619 or Tiffany Zachary, 241-4462.