

## Y-12, TVA sign MOU to test new technologies

Y-12 signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tennessee Valley Authority to work together in testing new security technologies through the creation of the Southeastern Critical Infrastructure Test Bed.

U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp announced the partnership during the recent Tennessee Valley Corridor Summit in Chattanooga.

“This agreement is yet another example of how organizations in the Tennessee Valley are coming together to put science and technology to work to help our nation,” Wamp said.

The MOU sets the stage for using TVA’s non-nuclear facilities to do real-time testing of various security technologies in a real setting, outside the research lab.

“The Department of Homeland Security and other security organizations are presented with thousands and thousands of new technologies, but it’s extremely difficult for them to know if the product will work in the environment where it’s needed,” said John Whittenburg, Y-12 senior program manager. “That’s why testing like this is needed.”

This year’s Tennessee Valley Corridor was the 16th in a series that Wamp has led since 1995, all with the common goal of encouraging regional economic development in the areas of science and technology. The Tennessee Valley Corridor—stretching from Southern Kentucky and Southwest Virginia,



Y-12 President and General Manager George Dials and Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen were attendees at the recent Tennessee Valley Corridor Summit where Y-12 signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tennessee Valley Authority to work together in testing new security technologies.

across Tennessee and down to Northeast Alabama—includes the NASA Marshall Flight Center and U.S. Army Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville; the Arnold Engineering Development Center in Tullahoma, Tenn.; Y-12 and Oak Ridge National Laboratory; and more than a dozen other federally funded institutions.

## What United Way means to me

*Kenny Cook, Atomic Trades and Labor Council president, shares his feelings about United Way.*

I truly believe in United Way and contribute not only through payroll deduction but also with my time and energy.

This year, we are seeking to increase ATLC participation, and we are challenging Council affiliates to begin an annual contribution to the campaign or increase the current contribution amount. Many United Way agencies are experiencing shortfalls, and their needs are greater this year because of recent natural disasters.

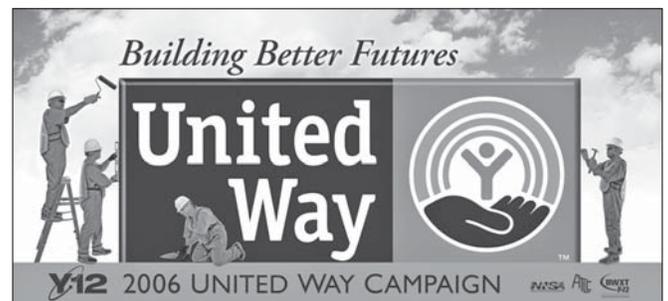
I encourage all ATLC employees to focus on what the United Way stands for and how each of us individually can contribute to help the United Way and its agen-

cies continue their important services and programs.

As in years past, ATLC employees who contribute at the \$250 silver level and the \$500 gold level will receive a United Way recognition pin from the AFL-CIO.

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# Construction resumes on HEUMF

Construction of the Y-12 National Security Complex's new uranium storage facility, the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility, is nearly 35 percent complete. Although quality concerns prompted a two-month suspension earlier this year, the project has successfully addressed the issues and operations are expected to begin as scheduled in late 2009.

Several changes have been initiated to improve quality assurance and to ensure that the project stays on track.

The project's management team has been restructured, a recommendation that came from assessments that were conducted during the project's suspension. The Projects division hired four new employees, each with a strong background in nuclear construction, to broaden the project team's experience base. The new project manager now has a core team of eight managers, who are matrixed from key areas such as engineering, construction, readiness and quality.

New efficiencies are being evaluated to keep the project on schedule. Y-12's Six Sigma Black Belts are investigating the process the project uses to incorporate construction changes. According to the HEUMF project manager, "We are working with the general subcontractor for all opportunities to reclaim the critical path."

Based on recommendations, Y-12's Quality Assurance program was retooled to strengthen the site's nuclear culture.

Since March, construction has primarily focused on wall pours. From May 1 through July 14, 35 wall pours were completed.

For the next several months work will continue on concrete placement, while installation of major electrical and mechanical systems will soon begin.



Construction of the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility continues. The building is 35 percent complete, and operations are expected to begin in late 2009.

## "Dialogue" coming in September

All employees are strongly encouraged to attend President and General Manager George Dials' All-Hands Meeting on Sept. 13, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the Knoxville Civic Coliseum. Buses will run from the portals and from off-site locations beginning at 11 a.m. Employees interested in a bus ride should contact Bobbie Howarth (7hw; 574-0896).

Mark your calendars for this event.

## Organizational changes

Following the June 1 changes to the BWXT Y-12 organization, George Dials, president and general manager, has announced additional managerial changes.

Bill Reis was named director of Defense Programs Management. Jennifer Bates has been named Reis' replacement as division manager for Planning, Integration and Control.

John Howanitz was named program manager of the Uranium Processing Facility.

Susan Howell has been named director of Readiness in Technical Base and Facilities. Howell has been serving in that position on an acting basis since the retirement of Jim Holland.

Jim Nobles has been named Ethics manager after 15 years with Internal Audit.

For more information on these changes, see the organizational chart and complete articles on YSource.

## Y-12 plant lauded for uranium conversion

Oak Ridge's Y-12 nuclear weapons plant and its management contractor won praise from federal officials for their role in helping to convert weapons-grade uranium into enough nuclear power plant fuel to potentially provide electricity for all U.S. households for 81 days. Linton Brooks, administrator of the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, said the processing of 50 metric tons of highly enriched uranium, formerly stored in a secured area at Y-12, eliminated the equivalent of 800 nuclear warheads and improved global security.

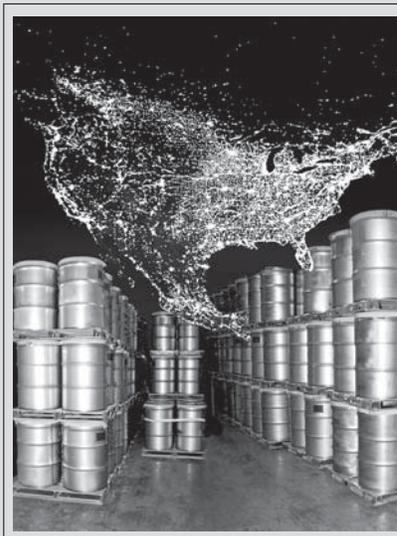
John Fees, president and chief operating officer at BWXT, said it is wise energy policy for the country to produce its own fuel for nuclear power plants.

Y-12 stored the weapons-grade uranium from 1999 to 2005, Fees said.

Many of the country's utilities are using fuel produced from former nuclear weapons, said John Welch, president of USEC Inc., a global energy company.

Welch credited BWXT with achieving a safe, effective process for the weapons-grade fuel.

—Condensed from *The Knoxville News-Sentinel*, July 14



## Uranium from Argentina arrives at Y-12

About 3.7 kilograms of weapons-grade uranium recovered from Argentina have been shipped to Oak Ridge for secure storage, and staff members at the Y-12 National Security Complex played a key role in the project.

The project in Argentina is part of an overall U.S. strategy to reduce the worldwide availability of materials of potential use in nuclear weapons.

The enriched uranium was contained in 24 fuel assemblies, which were removed from a research reactor in Buenos Aires, repackaged and delivered to Y-12.

Morris Hassler of Y-12 said Y-12 workers participated in every stage of the project over the past 18 months.

The project was a joint effort between the National Nuclear Security Administration and Argentina's National Atomic Energy Commission.

In a prepared statement, NNSA Administrator Linton Brooks said the shipment of enriched uranium was part of a "broad global effort to reduce the risk of terrorists acquiring nuclear material."

—Condensed from *The Knoxville News Sentinel*, July 19

## Being safe pays off

The workers constructing the Y-12 National Security Complex's Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility were acknowledged by the National Nuclear Security Administration, BWXT Y-12 and Caddell/Blaine Joint Venture during a July 28 safety celebration. Caddell/Blaine is the prime subcontractor for the construction of HEUMF.

There are about 150 people from a variety of crafts working on the site under the Caddell/Blaine contract. Caddell/Blaine's safety program was recently enhanced to include the opportunity to win larger prizes when workers are accident free.

The quarter's top prize—an all-terrain vehicle—went to Steve Fritz, who said the ATV will make the perfect birthday present for his daughter. Caddell/Blaine also awarded gift cards to Home Depot.

HEUMF construction began in 2005 and is approximately 35 percent complete. The facility is expected to be operational in late 2009.



Employees of Caddell/Blaine, Y-12 and NNSA congratulate the winner.

## HR: making revolutionary changes



Debbie Shecterle

“Look at the Y-12 skyline, and you’ll see the birds of change,” said George Dials, BWXT Y-12 president and general manager, as way of introduction to Debbie Shecterle’s, Human Resources division manager, recent staff meeting. The birds Dials referred to are the construction cranes throughout Y-12.

Shecterle invited Dials to speak on his vision for Y-12 at her recent staff meeting. The focus of her presentation was why human resources matters.

Dials said that he and Shecterle are aligned on the type of change—“revolutionary, not evolutionary”—needed at Y-12 and agree on the importance of leading people through change and managing processes.

In explaining her HR philosophy, Shecterle said that Y-12 requires a people strategy that ensures maximum benefit

is gained by investing in people. She said that HR must move from being an administrative provider to a strategic provider, from reactive to proactive.

Shecterle sees HR’s role as partnering strategically with business leadership to anticipate and build the people-related capabilities that will enable Y-12 to achieve its vision. She explained that becoming a business partner with organizations will enable the company to build value (profitability, productivity, safety, quality and security).

Shecterle noted that HR must be nimble and flexible enough to anticipate—and change with—the needs of its customers.

With the full support of senior leadership, Shecterle recently reorganized the HR division to more effectively implement her vision.

“It’s important that HR be empowered with the tools and capabilities it needs to effectively manage the company’s most important asset—its employees,” said Shecterle.

These changes will enhance HR for you, as a Y-12 employee, and eventually, a Y-12 retiree.

## Taming the stress monster

Contact Drs. Linda Shissler or Russ Reynolds to schedule your group’s presentation.

## Park and ride in style

Riding in style in Knoxville Area Transit’s new, air-conditioned buses, riders can catch up on their reading, take short naps, or calculate how much fuel they are saving by taking advantage of the free round-trip express transportation to and from Y-12.

Gene Davy of Information and Materials says instead of the usual gas fill-up in his private vehicle almost twice a week, he now fills his gas tank once every two weeks.

Savings in fuel costs alone for each rider are anticipated to be about \$1,700 per year.

Larry Rackstraw, who manages the KAT service, thinks the number of riders will increase as others realize the many benefits. Rackstraw said one employee brings his bicycle on board and takes advantage of the KAT service one way. Another rider taking advantage of the service is Dan Hoag, a National Nuclear Security Administration employee.

“Try it; you will like it. The service is a great way to travel to and from work safely,” said Hoag.

“The bus is comfortable and allows me to get to and from work with less stress. I recommend this service to everyone at Y-12,” Hoag concluded.

KAT is trying to negotiate a pick-up area in the Cedar Bluff area then possibly expand service to north Knoxville.

So it all adds up. If you are concerned about parking at Y-12, rising fuel prices, and air quality, or would simply enjoy a stress-free ride to and from work, this service may be just what you need. Contact Rackstraw (ara; 576-7849) or Beth Green (sce; 574-2125) for more information.



## Kathabar projects completed ahead of schedule, under budget

The Y-12 team responsible for the Kathabar 3 and 3310 replacement projects achieved an important milestone on June 30, when both units were completed and turned over to Operations ahead of schedule and significantly under budget. Both projects were completed with no first-aid cases or reportable injuries.

Kathabars are dehumidification units that support production activities. The new Kathabar systems incorporate state-of-the-art dehumidification and cooling technology and replace outdated and inefficient units that had deteriorated beyond repair. The new units will provide improved support to production by increasing reliability, reducing maintenance and repair costs, and extending the life of the dehumidification system.

The Kathabar projects were completed more than \$1 million under budget and have made it possible to proceed with an additional Kathabar replacement project nearly six months ahead of schedule.

The projects were executed by a multidisciplinary team with representatives from Engineering; Construction; Manufacturing; Maintenance; Quality Assurance; Environment, Safety and Health; and Planning, Integration and Control.

“The success of these projects is directly attributable to the close cooperation between all organizations and the extensive use of lessons learned from recently completed projects,” explained Project Manager David Mosby.

Mike Richesin, manager of the Facilities and Infrastructure Recapitalization Program, credits the projects’ success to “the early focus on communication between all stakeholders and the incorporation of lessons learned during the planning and design phases.”

## Academy comes to Y-12

In July, attendees of the President’s Academy for Emerging Technologies visited two Y-12 facilities: the large-chamber scanning electron microscope and the Microwave Melting laboratory.

Bob Ervin of National Security and Development Programs provided an overview of the technologies developed by the National Security Technology Center and showcased the SysChip™ that is used in the prototype metal detector glove and the prototype Infrared Tactical Sensor that is targeted for military personnel.

For information about the NSTC, visit <http://www.y12.doe.gov/mis-sions/complementarywork/nstc>.

Tennessee Tech University offers the academy to high school students and allows them to work with professionals in emerging technology fields.

## Y-12 drinking water meets health standards

As part of its drinking water quality assurance program, Y-12 sends samples from the plant’s drinking water system to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation lab in Knoxville. A total of eight samples per month are required by the state. Earlier this year, the monthly eight samples were sent to the state lab, but only seven samples were documented as being received.

Because the required number of samples did not reach state regulators, TDEC issued, as required by regulations, a notice of violation of drinking water standards. While the notice of violation was issued, it is important to note that all samples prior to these meet all health standards for drinking water safety, the seven samples received and analyzed by TDEC met all the standards and all the samples sent since have met the health standards.

However, because the NOV was issued, BWXT Y-12 is required to notify Y-12 water consumers. Please share this information with others who drink this water, especially those who may not have access to electronic mail or other communications.

Public Notice of National Primary Drinking Water Regulations Violation

In accordance with Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) requirements, the following Notice of National Primary Drinking Water Regulations Violation is being provided to consumers of water from the Y-12 National Security Complex potable water distribution system.

The Y-12 National Security Complex potable water distribution system is classified as a Non-transient Non-community Public Water System under the Rules of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Bureau of Environment, Division of Water Supply Chapter 1200-5-1, Public Water Systems. Under this Rule, we are required to monitor our drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of this monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards.

BWXT Y-12 is required to take eight samples per month for total coliform in accordance with an approved site sampling plan. During the month of January 2006, only seven of the required eight total coliform samples were documented; therefore, we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. Coliform bacteria occur naturally in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria, may be present.

Beginning in February 2006, all of the required samples have been taken and analyzed. At no time was there any indication of contamination of the water supply. All samples during the first two quarters of calendar year 2006 (a total of 47 samples) were negative for coliform bacteria. Based upon this information, BWXT Y-12 does not recommend the use of alternative water supplies and no action is required of consumers of the water supplied by Y-12.

# Summertime ... working *and* learning



Eleven of the co-op and intern students have been offered full-time positions at Y-12 this fiscal year. Seven have accepted the jobs.

When you're a college student, summer months can be filled with lazy days and sleeping late. This statement isn't true for the 57 co-op and intern students who have been working at Y-12 this summer. On July 18 and 19, the students reported on what they learned while working at Y-12.

"Being a full-time employee and working 40 hours a week is a lot different than waking up, going to class and going home," said Adonia Moore, a second-year intern from The University of Tennessee who is working in Quality Assurance.

More than one of this year's students mentioned becoming more efficient in their time management skills, especially working four 10-hour days.

"Four/10s—it's crazy—but I've learned better time management," laughed Jonathan Thomas, a third-year intern from Tuskegee University.

Students not only experience life in the work force but also obtain skills and knowledge not always learned in class.

"The hands-on experience is a great benefit ... I've learned more in the few months I've been here than I've learned in a

semester at school," said Omari Boyd, a Tennessee State University architecture engineering student.

One TSU graduate, Crystal Greene, who is working at Y-12 for the first time, put a real-world comparison with her summer working environment. "You can call us the eHarmony™ of chemicals because we want to see if they [certain chemicals] get along with each other. Some of the chemicals aren't compatible with certain storage areas."

Whether they spent their time in an office or on one of the construction sites modernizing Y-12, the co-ops and interns will return to school with some great experience under their belts.

Co-op Jay Farmer, who is working with Engineering, said, "I've learned a lot of engineering roles and responsibilities that are very useful as a civil engineering major."

Tomorrow's work force will be well prepared as they learn firsthand from some of the nation's most experienced engineers and scientists. Maybe Y-12 is actually training some of its own of tomorrow.

Y-12 Employees' Society *Say YES to yes*

## You asked for it ...

The Y-12 Employees' Society is offering a seven-day Caribbean cruise aboard Carnival Miracle departing from Tampa, Fla., March 25, 2007, and returning to Tampa, April 1.

Visit the YES website (<http://www.y12.doe.gov/community/yes/contact.php>) for information on weekend jaunts and day trips.

If you have ideas for destinations, please fill out the suggestion form on the website.



## Reducing IOSCs focus for August

Do you remember those childhood nightmares about getting to school without wearing your clothes? Given the restrictions on bringing cell phones into Y-12, you may be revisiting those nightmares with a slightly different theme.

If you have an idea that you believe Safeguards and Security could implement to reduce incidents of cell phones entering security areas, the Incidents of Security Concern Office wants to know. Employees are invited to share their ideas with Carmen Willis (6WL). Entries will be accepted during August; entries chosen for implementation will be eligible for a drawing for gift certificates.

## JULY

### 43 years

**Information and Materials:** Frances H. Hickey

### 41 years

**Manufacturing:** Harvey L. Stevens

### 40 years

**Quality Assurance:** Jerry L. Harris

### 35 years

**Facilities, Infrastructure and Services:** Neil E. Wilson

**Information and Materials:** Frank E. Dotson

**Manufacturing:** Ronald H. Thornton

### 30 years

**Engineering:** Daniel G. Ailey, Norman A. Dobbs, David L. Hueser, Thomas J. Read and Sandra L. Travis

**Facilities, Infrastructure and Services:** Sammy R. Burris, Russell M. Duncan, Bill R. Foster, Claire A. Hoffman, Charles D. Massengale, Michael D. Randolph, Robert M. Ray Jr., Harvey W. Rivers, Dennis E. Sharna and Paul G. Stokes

**Financial Management:** Phyllis M. Roberts

**Manufacturing:** Bruce L. Campbell, Willard W. Clark, David L. Daniels, David E. Gordon, Phyllis P. Gordon, Williamae D.

Harris, Donny R. Hedgecoth and Elizabeth A. Mitchell

**Planning, Integration and Control:** Gary C. Spradlen

**Public Affairs and Communications:** Charlotte E. Johnson and Marvin O. Payne

**Quality Assurance:** Roy L. Mowell

### 25 years

**Directed Stockpile Work:** Thomas H. Thrasher

**Engineering:** Tina M. Young

**Environment, Safety and Health:** Nancy C. Underwood

**Facilities, Infrastructure and Services:** Anne M. Lee and Wesley C. White

**Public Affairs and Communications:** Mona G. Wright

**Quality Assurance:** Steven J. Dekanich and David A. Waldrop

### 20 years

**Environment, Safety and Health:** Marilyn R. Griffin

**Financial Management:** Sherry L. Neal

**Human Resources:** Phyllis P. Young

**Information and Materials:** Joseph M. Holbrook

## AUGUST

### 44 years

**Applied Technologies:**

Matthew J. O'Hara

### 40 years

**Environment, Safety and**

**Health:** Nancy C. Stidham

### 35 years

**Facilities, Infrastructure and Services:** Charles D. Hickey

### 30 years

**Applied Technologies:** Kenneth W. Kaiser

**Engineering:** Cary M. Amonett

**Facilities, Infrastructure and Services:** Monroe E. Adams, Wayne C. Ball, Eugene A. Barnes, Steve A. Cameron, John F. Clement, Teddy D. Cook, Thomas D. Frady, David H.

Hammontree, Gary E. Hudson, Elmer S. Krebs, Robert D. Lanham, Raymond C. Smith, John A. Turnbill and Terry M. West

**Information and Materials:** Betty L. Hatmaker

**Manufacturing:** Thomas W. Fields, Dorothy B. Galyon, Michael H. Johnson, Jimmy L. Lancaster, Paul E. Ledford, Rodney L. Lucas, Danny W. Mullins, Roger Thomas and Linda S. Williams

**Public Affairs and Communications:** Warren L. Short

**Quality Assurance:** Donald D. Clemons

### 25 years

**Directed Stockpile Work:** Janice W. Christman

**Engineering:** Matthew J. Marsicek and Clyde B. Senviel

**Environment, Safety and Health:** Charlotte L. Brown, Theresa L. Gaskins and James C. Hendershot

**Facilities, Infrastructure and Services:** Douglas L. Mealer, Harold D. Rutherford and James M. White Jr.

**Information Technology:** Karen C. Bills

**Manufacturing:** James K. Cox, Garry L. Evans and Nevins A. Pennycutt

**Public Affairs and Communications:** Lynda K. Wilson

### 20 years

**Environment, Safety and Health:** Randell B. Harris

**Information Technology:** Karren B. Cochran

**Manufacturing:** Mark W. Williams



Every job is a self-portrait of the person who does it. Autograph your work with excellence. —Unknown

# Setting our priorities

You may have seen the posters around Y-12 advertising our “priorities,” which include safety, security, productivity and modernization. You also may have wondered, “What do those priorities mean, and what do they have to do with me?”

George Dials, BWXT Y-12 president and general manager, is the creator of the priorities list, and he gave this explanation for them:

“Safety and security are easy—they should be a chief component of everyone’s thinking every day,” he said. “Protecting ourselves and our work should be woven into everything that we do, at home and at work. We are a chosen group completing extraordinary tasks for our country—that requires being aware and taking special measures for every task we do.

“Productivity is more than just meeting schedules; it’s completing work in the most efficient and cost-effective ways,” Dials said. “Our Six Sigma Black Belt and Yellow Belt projects have yield-

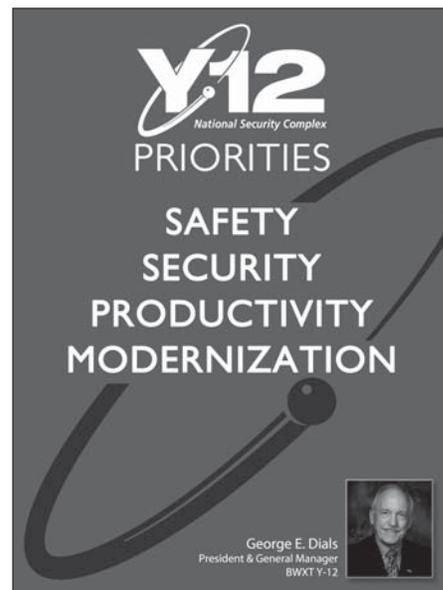
ed almost \$220 million in savings, and there are still areas for improvements. If you have an idea regarding improvements in processes or productivity in your work area, don’t wait for someone else to point it out, submit it to the Six Sigma group—when it comes to your work, you are the subject matter expert.”

Dials pointed out that Y-12’s modernization efforts are more than just new buildings that will result in a smaller footprint for the site.

“Y-12 is changing for a reason,” he said. “The National Nuclear Security Administration’s requirements are changing, and we are changing what we do and how we do it to meet their new needs.”

Does this mean Y-12 will operate with fewer people? Dials answered that changing missions shouldn’t necessarily mean less work—in fact, he predicts we will expand our missions as we update our facilities and capabilities.

“We are moving confidently into the future—as the world changes, we must change to respond to our nation’s



needs,” he said. “We have been designated by NNSA as America’s Center of Excellence for Uranium Operations because of our extensive experience and expertise in handling all forms of uranium. It is up to us to measure up to that title—now and in the future.”

## BWXTymes

Volume 6, No. 8

August 2006

<http://www.y12.doe.gov/news/bwxtymes.php>

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