BWXT Y-12 received more than $21 million in fiscal 2003 for managing the Y-12 Nuclear Security Complex. The company received high marks in most categories, earning $21,188,511 out of a total possible $22,940,552.

“Overall, BWXT Y-12 made significant improvements at the Y-12 plant, continuing the positive momentum generated in the last couple of years,” Bill Brumley, head of the National Nuclear Security Administration’s Y-12 Site Office, said in a Jan. 5 letter to President and General Manager Dennis Ruddy.

These improvements included meeting all customer deliverables, specific safety-related accomplishments, project management, non-nuclear proliferation and infrastructure reduction,” Brumley wrote.

Dennis Ruddy is pleased with the overall evaluation.

“We believe it acknowledges the significant progress we have made in the three years since taking over as management and operations contractor. This recognition is due to the efforts of many people,” said Ruddy.

Safety is the top priority for improvement, and BWXT Y-12 is launching a series of initiatives to improve conduct of operations. “Because safety is always our first priority, we are currently launching a major safety process called Behavior-Based Safety that will support conduct of operations improvements,” Ruddy said.

“We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of the men and women of BWXT Y-12, including breaking ground for the new purification facility, receiving approval for the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility, being recognized by the National Safety Council for our efforts in improving worker safety, being recognized by the Small Business Administration for our support of small business and having the lowest number of occupational injuries in the last ten years.”

Liedle joins BWXT Y-12 management team

Steve Liedle has joined BWXT Y-12 as deputy general manager.

In this new role, Liedle will work directly with Dennis Ruddy, president and general manager, and Greg Baker, deputy general manager. Deputy General Manager Buddy Conner is retiring in February after a 45-year career.

“Steve brings to Y-12 more than 17 years’ experience in successful management of complex projects at a number of Department of Energy sites. He has extensive experience in management of projects in large, complex, highly regulated businesses. That experience and his knowledge of DOE, the National Nuclear Security Administration and the local community make him an excellent addition to our management team,” Ruddy said.

Liedle joins BWXT Y-12 from Bechtel Jacobs Company where he served as president and general manager of Bechtel Nevada where he had overall management responsibility for performance-based management of DOE’s Nevada Test Site.

Liedle said he is excited about his new position with BWXT Y-12. “I am thrilled to be part of the Y-12 team and look forward to contributing to the important missions and the success of BWXT Y-12's management of the Y-12 National Security Complex for the National Nuclear Security Administration,” he said.

Better call the Employee Information Line to find out how the weather is affecting your work.

865-241-1212
Denny’s Desk . . .

Taking PRYDE in Y-12

We should be proud of the Y-12 National Security Complex. With our rich history and increasingly bright future, we can be proud of many things. Our actions and the care we give our surroundings should reflect that pride. Therefore, we are implementing a new process called Y-12 PRYDE.

A place for everything and everything in its place—this phrase seems like a simple theory, but things tend to get more complicated in a place as vast as Y-12. However, if we incorporate this phrase into what we do each and every day, we can make a huge difference in the appearance and efficiency of Y-12.

You may be thinking, “But Y-12 is over 60 years old, how can we possibly expect it to look like a new facility?” I prefer Stellar performance to think of Y-12 in terms of a classic automobile. Many of you own such vehicles and keep them in mint condition. That is what I want for Y-12. Let’s shine, polish and treat it like the “classic” it is.

Y-12 PRYDE encompasses four major areas: (1) good housekeeping, (2) Clean Sweep, (3) pollution prevention and (4) recycling. Good housekeeping is just as the name implies; it involves keeping our work areas neat and free of clutter. The Clean Sweep Program involves cleanup of working space within Y-12, including scheduled pickup of materials for disposal, recycle and excess. Pollution prevention and recycling complete this plan to clean up Y-12.

For more information, check future issues of BWX TYmes, log onto YSource or contact Ron Walton (lmw; 576-8388).

STARs shine on employees

Some employees coming to work may catch a glimpse of Orion’s belt in the night sky, but now all employees will be watching the STARs a little more closely. The Site Training Access Requirements, that is. As of Feb. 2, all BWXT Y-12 employees are being screened for STAR completion before being granted access to Y-12 through badge-reader-controlled perimeter portals.

STAR qualifications are the minimum set of training requirements that all employees, regardless of job assignment, must meet. These requirements include general employee training, computer security awareness, prevention of workplace violence and use of portable fire extinguishers.

“We’re serious about meeting our compliance requirements, especially training requirements,” said Lorry Ruth, Plant Training manager. “STAR is all about putting controls in place so that we stay on track—so that we do what we said we were going to do.”

If an employee is deficient in any STAR qualification, the badge reader displays “Denied-Trng Defic” and the employee will be denied access through the portal. Once access is denied, the employee should use the portal telephone to notify supervision immediately, proceed to the Y-12 Visitor Center where temporary access (up to nine days) can be granted and complete deficient training as soon as possible.

Depending on how effective STAR is at reducing training deficiencies, additional measures may be necessary. “We plan to keep monitoring employee completion-of-training and deficiency reports and, if necessary, implement further controls,” said Ruth.

So don’t be a STAR-crossed employee. To check your STAR completion status, ask your supervisor or visit https://www-internal.y12.doe.gov/HR/QM/star.html for more information.

Ambassadors present CONOPS to organizations

To familiarize Y-12 organizations with the Conduct of Operations Improvement Program, Y-12 has initiated a CONOPS Ambassador Program. Through the Ambassador Program, CONOPS team leaders bring resources provided by the CONOPS Improvement Plan directly to individual organizations.

Ambassadors provide an overview of the CONOPS Improvement Plan to the Y-12 population. This open forum allows individual employees to voice their questions and concerns in an unintimidating environment and to get the facts from the source.

For more information on scheduling an ambassador to speak to your organization, contact Melissa Leinart (6ml; 574-1621).
Mustaleski elected as AWS president

When Y-12 Technology Development employee Tom Mustaleski was studying in metallurgical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., little did he know he would someday be tackling business and legal responsibilities akin to those of a leader of a Fortune 500 company. Elected last April as president of the American Welding Society, Mustaleski guides a 48,500-member international organization that advances the science, technology and application of materials joining.

“It’s a completely different role from what I do as an engineer,” Mustaleski said. The board of directors for the 85-year-old organization runs a business that has 100 employees and oversees an annual budget of $16 million.

During his one-year term, Mustaleski aims to make people realize that the group’s biggest asset is the free time its volunteers provide. His other goals have included reducing the society’s spending and finding a good executive director.

Among its undertakings, AWS collaborates with others on the establishment of international standards for materials joining, ensuring that American practices are included so U.S. workers and companies can compete. Consequently, as president, Mustaleski represents the American welding industry around the world in his travels, attending meetings and networking with notables in science and industry.

An AWS member since 1968 and a veteran of its various councils and committees, he thinks people outside the field do not fully understand or appreciate the impact welding science has on their lives. “There are hundreds of weld joints in your cell phone,” he pointed out, then repeated an industry adage, “Welding holds the world together.”

Even so, Mustaleski maintains that one AWS challenge is in convincing parents that welding offers many avenues for their children. In the United States “there is not an interest today in learning a craft or skill,” he explained. Coupled with that is the misperception that welding is “a dirty old job,” when, in reality, welding involves sophisticated equipment and a cleaner, safer environment than in times past.

Johns assists director of Tennessee Homeland Security


“I am pleased that BWXT Y-12 has offered us the services of a true professional such as Judy Johns,” said Humble. “This kind of teamwork between federal, state and local agencies is key to enhancing the homeland security of Tennessee.”

As special assistant, Johns’ duties include intelligence and executive-level security guidance. As part of the state’s loaned executive program, Johns will continue to report to Ruddy.

For the past three years, Johns served as division manager, Safeguards and Security. In this position, she led Y-12’s efforts to respond to the nation’s changing security requirements in the post-9/11 environment, implementing substantial security enhancements and piloting new security technologies on behalf of the National Nuclear Security Administration.

“I am honored to be asked to accept this assignment,” said Johns. “I look forward to working with Gen. Humble in the coming year to offer significant contributions to the state’s Homeland Security program.”

Has CIGNA provided an anticipated date for mailing new identification cards for those employees who enrolled in a different plan?

Identification cards for both CIGNA Options 1 and 2 were mailed before the end of 2003. If you have not received your identification card, please contact Member Services at 1-800-244-6224 for CIGNA Option 1 or 1-800-515-7378 for Option 2.
The huge cleanup effort of the 9204-4 (Beta 4) Bonded Storage Area, which began in October, was completed by December 2003 with no occurrences or injuries. Cleaning up the Beta 4 area freed approximately 8,000 square feet of valuable storage space that is now decontaminated and ready for use without protective equipment for the first time in years.

Under the direction of Jim Zonar, Bob Gouldy and Deborah Brock worked with Y-12ers of many departments to ship approximately 772 drums, each weighing between 100 and 300 pounds, to other facilities.

Understandably, a few “glitches” arose during this time-intensive project. As the team encountered various obstacles, however, their solutions provided lessons learned for future performance.

For instance, Zonar and Gouldy described a potential “show-stopper”—malfunction of the overhead door to the loading dock—and the immediate, expert repair performed by maintenance specialists. Stuck halfway in its tracks, the door required a complete “door crew” of electricians and outside machinists who freed the existing metal chains supporting the door and reconstructed a smooth replacement.

In addition, relocation of the drums revealed a loophole in Y-12’s shipping procedures. On three occasions, drums were sent to facilities that were not prepared to accept them. Zonar stated that the lessons learned from these incidents would be applied to procedures governing other inter-plant shipments. Y-12’s shipping procedures will be stronger and more consistent because of these experiences.

The cleanup effort required many overtime hours from the entire team (RADCON technicians, 9206 decontamination team, Nuclear Materials Control and Accountability personnel, Criticality Safety representatives, and maintenance) with workweeks averaging 64 hours.

Randy Spickard has been named director of National Security Programs. National Security Programs is responsible for supplying nuclear fuel to the Tennessee Valley Authority and the U.S. Navy, as well as performing first-of-a-kind manufacturing for government agencies.

“Having Randy at Y-12 leading such a dynamic program as National Security Programs is really a boon for us,” said President and General Manager Dennis Ruddy. “His knowledge, experience and enthusiasm are a great match for this challenging position. I look forward to great things from Randy and his organization.”

Spickard joined BWXT Y-12 from BWX Technologies in Lynchburg, Va., where he was a senior-level program manager with a broad background in engineering, technology development and project management. He has more than 15 years’ experience in nuclear operations and international technical oversight, including management of the Atomic Vapor Laser Isotope Separation project.

“I am very excited about this new role and look forward to working with the people in National Security Programs to continue the success of their important work,” Spickard said.

Spickard holds a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering from Purdue University and a master’s degree in business administration from Lynchburg College. He also completed the Kellogg Management Institute at Northwestern University and has studied transformational leadership at the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia.

Butch Clements was recently named division manager of Safeguards and Security and succeeds Judy Johns, who is on loan to the Tennessee Department of Homeland Security.

This marks the second time Clements has held this position. While holding this position from 1994 until 1998, he received the company’s Manager of the Year award, and the security organization garnered awards from both the U.S. Department of Energy and the Tennessee Malcolm Baldrige process. The Malcolm Baldrige award is the premier recognition of business excellence and quality achievement.

Clements will leave his current position as director of National Security Programs to assume this role.

“I look forward to working with the security professionals at Y-12 again,” said Clements. “My previous tenure in Safeguards and Security was on of the most rewarding experiences of my career, and I am pleased that I will have the opportunity to re-enter the security field at this time in our nation’s history.”

Employed at Y-12 since 1989, Clements began his career in the Security Department, but he also has had successes directing Site Management, Program Oversight and National Security Programs.

Butch Clements

Randy Spickard
Y-12 leads in implementation of high-energy digital radiography

Digital watches have replaced wind-up timepieces, digital cameras are replacing film cameras and now digital radiography may soon replace film-based systems. Y-12 is a leader in the evolution from film-based to digital radiography technology within the Nuclear Weapons Complex.

This past summer Y-12 implemented high-energy digital radiography to automate part setup and alignment and digitize radiographs of products. The Y-12 technical team (Jim Ferguson, Lloyd Arrowood, Art Miller, Blake Van Hoy, Rick Lewis, Bill Hodge, Ed Stooksbury, Ray Starr, Mitch Guinn, Joe Blotzer and Jim Hummel) is developing a mid-energy radiographic capability for operational use in 2005 followed by development of a low-energy digital radiographic capability in 2007.

Plant Directed Research, Development and Demonstration and Advanced Design and Production Technologies are supporting development of a high-resolution imaging system to make Y-12's digital capability equal to or better than film at all energy levels.

Digital techniques provide additional capabilities such as image enhancements and feature extractions to support product analysis. Benefits will include reducing setup time and the time associated with obtaining high-quality radiographs, eliminating the use of film and film processing chemicals, eliminating storage and archive costs associated with legacy radiographic films, enabling teleradiography collaboration and communications with NWC partners and implementing computed tomography.

Recently Y-12 proposed to coordinate development of a multiyear digital radiography roadmap for the NWC. This roadmap will address the infrastructure needs and business practices necessary to effectively use this technology throughout the weapons complex and migrate from film-based to 100% digital radiography.

Calculate your smoking risks

Do you smoke or know someone who does? Do you know the health effects of smoking?

Learn more about the health effects of smoking on the National Cancer Institute’s Web site (http://dccps.nci.nih.gov/tcrb/smokersrisk/). This site gives smokers personalized information about their own risk. By entering your smoking profile, including details such as when you began smoking, how many cigarettes you smoke per day and your current age, you can view a graph that shows your risks of dying of lung cancer now and in the future.

If what you see on your personalized chart doesn’t make you happy, or you would rather just skip the data and move on to minimizing your risks, then Dr. Russ Reynolds and Tonya Warwick of Occupational Health Services can help.

Reynolds, staff clinical psychologist, and Tonya Warwick, a physician’s assistant, work with employees in their efforts to quit smoking (or give up other forms of tobacco). For more information, contact Reynolds (eun; 574-3434).

FI&S generates some steam

When we’re chilled to the bone after a brisk walk from the parking lot to our work area, it’s certainly pleasant to have nice, warm air to thaw us out—and we have Tom Surratt of Facilities, Infrastructure and Services and his Steam Plant crews to thank.

Y-12 depends on steam heat in the winter, and running the 50-year-old steam plant creates a lot of operational challenges. According to Charles Krull, the Utilities operations manager, Y-12 facilities were not designed with heat retention in mind, and buildings get cold quickly when problems arise with the steam system. Surratt’s around-the-clock crews are challenged to keep three of the original four boilers up and running. During peak periods, up to 25 tractor-trailer loads of coal are delivered five days a week to meet Y-12’s steam demand.

Even with decreased steam loads, thanks in part to infrastructure reduction, the annual cost of running the steam plant is ~$11 million per year. We can help reduce costs and effort by working with building managers to ensure outside doors close properly and broken windows are replaced.
Y-12 gives students a lesson in history

What’s more intimidating than a room full of people staring at you while you give a presentation? Let’s make those people eight years old. Crazy? Brave? You can think what you want, but Ray Smith calls it fun.

“There are times when I have more fun talking to kids than adults, and this is one of those times,” Smith said after speaking to a group of 60 third-graders at the Oliver Springs Elementary School.

Smith discussed the federal government’s role in the creation of the Oak Ridge Reservation and talked about some of Y-12’s more current projects, such as Seawolf, the Future Medical Shelter System and work done with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Y-12 retiree Lloyd Stokes brought along some historical artifacts for the kids to see.

The invitation for a speaker to visit came from Mrs. Bilyeu, a third-grade teacher at the school. One of her students, Michael Nelson, is the son of Michelle Nelson who works in the Information and Materials organization. After viewing a videotape about the history of Roane County, which contained footage of the construction of Oak Ridge and the K-25 site, Nelson’s son immediately connected the film with his mother’s work.

“He told everyone in his class that his mom worked at Y-12 and that he was going to be a scientist here some day,” Nelson said. “It was such a thrill for me to hear the excitement in his voice telling me what he had learned that day.”

If you or someone you know would like to have someone speak to a group, class or meeting, contact Ellen Boatner (eb8; 574-1643).

'Snowbusters' ready for Old Man Winter

The Facilities, Infrastructure and Services work crews have spent months getting ready for this winter’s snow and ice. New equipment has been ordered and delivered, and the season’s first snowfall was subdued in record time.

“We’ve got more and better snow preparation and response equipment now than we’ve ever had at Y-12,” said Sam White of the FI&S management team.

The roads and grounds work crews pretreat high-traffic areas with brine solution before storms hit. After the storm arrives, this team (known as “Snowbusters”) starts clearing roads and walkways so that Y-12 folks can get into and around the Complex safely.

Buckets of ice chaser are available at portals and building entrances for use at small, localized areas that need treatment. Simply open the top and broadcast a light scattering of ice chaser on snowy and icy patches. It only takes a little bit of ice chaser to work effectively.

You can identify large or problem areas that need snow or ice removal by calling the Snowbusters hotline at 574-0480. With all of us working together, we can prevent dangerous slips and falls at Y-12 this winter.

Company contributes college cash

All too quickly after saying, “Ooh, what a beautiful baby,” you’re saying, “She’s all grown up. Yikes! How are we going to pay for her college education?!” If you’re short on cash and those commencement exercises are just around the corner, parent company scholarships may be your ticket.

The McDermott Scholarship Program, Bechtel Systems and Infrastructure Inc. (BSII) Citizen Scholars Program and Bechtel Global Scholars Awards Program all offer scholarships to help defray college expenses.

McDermott will award up to 20 four-year scholarships each year to children of company employees. Winners will be selected by a committee of McDermott employees and will receive $1500 a year for up to four years. The deadline to apply is March 15.

Twenty-two scholarships will be granted through BSII’s Citizen Scholars Program: 20 awards of $2,000 each and two awards of $5,000 each to the two top recipients. BSII established this corporate scholarship program in 2001 to assist employees’ children who plan to continue education in college or vocational school programs. Awards are for undergraduate study only. All applications must be postmarked no later than April 3.

The Bechtel Foundation will offer scholarships to first-time college and university students who plan to enroll in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school. Program participation is open to the children of all salaried, non-manual employees worldwide who have at least one year of service as of the application deadline of April 3. Up to 22 scholarships will be awarded each year.

Applications for all three scholarship programs can be obtained by calling One Call at 574-1500.
Students participate in expedition via JASON Project

Seventh-grade students of Jefferson Middle School in Oak Ridge were chosen to have live interaction via Webcam with the JASON Project’s expedition in the rainforests of Panama. BWXT Y-12 is a corporate sponsor of the JASON project, which is a yearlong education program that guides teachers and students through a hands-on learning experience in science and technology.

Obituary

Lisa Shultz, 36, of Clinton, died Jan. 6. Shultz, an employee in the Physical Testing group of Quality Assurance, had almost 13 years of service with the company.

Shultz is survived by her husband, Randy; two brothers, Clyde "Buddy" Shultz and Larry Shultz; two sisters, Rose Fox and Carolyn Nichols; and other extended family members.
Y-12 dismantles, disposes of nuclear weapons components

One of Y-12’s missions is the dismantlement of retired weapons. As the United States reduces its stockpile, the components of old, obsolete, unwanted nuclear weapons are removed from use and are disposed of through recycling, reuse or waste treatment efforts.

Directed Stockpile Work’s Dismantlement and Disposition program oversees the dismantlement and disposal of nuclear weapons components and materials produced at Y-12.

Retired weapons are partially dismantled at Pantex. Components made at Y-12 are returned here where their constituent parts are evaluated for possible reuse by a life extension program, recycled through a material reduction process to create new stock material (which will be stored until needed) or disposed of in a manner appropriate to their classification and characteristics.

“Dismantlement activities save the National Nuclear Security Administration money by supporting part reuse efforts on the life extension programs as well as recapturing critical weapon materials for recycling, thus avoiding the need to purchase or produce new materials,” said Lisa Shope, Dismantlement and Disposition program manager.

DSW’s dismantlement efforts are supported by the Nuclear Materials Management and Storage Program of Readiness in Technical Base and Facilities. NMM&S manager Shirley Cox believes that this team approach is effective.

“By working together, NMM&S and DSW are reducing the inventory of unneeded and surplus parts and materials at Y-12, thus lowering costs and improving both safety and security. The organizational integration and cooperation displayed by this effort is a very good start to a 10-year effort to clean up excess materials and waste,” said Cox.

Excess material disposed
Charles Brown of Facilities, Infrastructure and Services loads B-25 boxes containing more than 9,500 unneeded parts onto a flatbed truck for transport to a secure disposal site.