Out with the old and in with the new

Many employees stopped to watch as bulldozers razed the former Y-12 administration building (9704-2) in late September.

Well-known within the Y-12 landscape, the building was constructed during the Manhattan Project (1943–44). At approximately 43,650 square feet, 9704-2 is one of the largest structures to be demolished as part of Y-12’s modernization effort.

The H-shaped structures, which are becoming extinct, were constructed by the U.S. Army and used as dormitories or offices. Building 9704-2 was not the main administration building during World War II; 9704-1 served that function. 9704-2 became Y-12’s administration building in 1954. During the Cold War years, the building was the center of activity for Oak Ridge’s weapons work.

Scott Hood, manager of Y-12’s Infrastructure Reduction program, said several artifacts from the H-shaped, former administration building were salvaged for historic preservation purposes. Some handrails and brass doorknobs from 9704-2 will be incorporated in the design of the new administration building.

The area will be converted into a parking lot, and the adjacent hillside is the proposed location for a new 450,000-square-foot facility. The three-story “Production Interface Building” will contain office space for 1,200 people, a cafeteria, a medical center, laboratory space and a 400-seat auditorium.

Everybody is excited about the new office space, and they realize that the old building has served its usefulness,” said Ray Smith of IR.

The new building along with a new “Public Interface Building” will be built with private-sector financing totaling more than $100 million. Lawler-Wood, a Knoxville firm, is the developer with groundbreaking proposed in early 2005.

The two new buildings are projected to save the government nearly $100 million in reduced operating, maintenance and renovation costs over the next 25 years while reducing the Y-12 footprint.

UNITED WAY DRIVE REACHES $650,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knox</td>
<td>$260,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blount</td>
<td>$15,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loudon</td>
<td>$31,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roane</td>
<td>$67,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson</td>
<td>$208,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Y-12’s 2004 United Way campaign was a resounding success, raising more than $650,000 for local charitable organizations. Included in this amount was a corporate contribution of $40,000.

Special events during the drive included a book fair, a silent online auction, a bake sale, a miniature golf tournament and the sale of a Y-12 cookbook.

During the 2004 campaign, one Y-12 employee became a member of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society, which recognizes contributors of more than $10,000 annually.

Y-12 safety scorecard

Y-12’s safety record continues to improve with decreases in recordable injuries and lost workdays year-to-date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recordable injuries/illness cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan–Sept 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan–Sept 2003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lost workday cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan–Sept 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan–Sept 2003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Y-12 recently signed a mentor-protégé agreement with South Carolina State University. Dennis Ruddy signed the agreement with Dr. Andrew Hugine Jr., SCSU president.

Held in Washington, D.C., the signing marked the close of the National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Conference. Rep. James Clyburn from South Carolina’s 6th Congressional District, was on hand for the signing and expressed his support for the agreement.

There is empowerment in metrics. Metrics send an easily understood statement; they show us that we either did or did not do what we set out to do.

Another area where we certainly need to be precise in our communication is signage. For that reason, we have embarked on a site-wide effort to improve signage. To be effective, signs must be clear, concise and direct and the instructions they deliver easy to understand. But just as importantly signs must be obeyed.

We are made aware of the need to obey signs in a number of ways including training, plan-of-the-day meetings, pre-job walk-downs, work permits, procedures and . . . frankly . . . common sense. Y-12’s safety signs are not art. They are not there merely for decorative purposes.

These signs are there to communicate vital safety information. Signs help prevent injuries, illnesses and exposure to hazards. Failing to obey signs can cause serious injury or death, neither of which is an acceptable outcome. Y-12 signs are posted to convey the clear message that we must work safely. On that note, I want to communicate this message: compliance with signage is a requirement, not an option.

William Butler Yeats, the Irish poet, once said, “Think like a wise man but communicate in the language of the people.” Yeats’ advice can certainly be applied at Y-12. All of us need to think and act wisely. And when we communicate, we need to do so clearly and plainly. Certainly we have our own sort of “lingo” where we find ourselves awash in a sea of acronyms or pulled into a language that is like a black hole—so dense that not even clear thinking can escape.

But in the world we work in, we must be able to make our message clear. That’s why I like metrics. There is clarity in metrics—clarity of expectation, clarity of purpose and clarity of accomplishment.

Some signs posted at Y-12 are outdated and confusing. If you see a bad sign at Y-12, you may be in luck as William Bessom of Facilities, Infrastructure and Services can attest. Bessom is this month’s winner of the ongoing Bad Sign contest. He writes:

“I have noticed a couple of ‘bad signs’ (old/useless signs) around Y-12 that were discussed in the recent mailing to our house.

At the old abandoned gas station (south of the existing gas station), there are still signs up that state ‘Full Service Island.’”

If you notice a “bad sign,” forward the location and/or wording to Melissa Leinart (6ml) of Public Affairs and Communications or via telephone at 574-1621. If we use your example in the BWXTymes, you will receive a Y-12 golf umbrella.

The mentor-protégé agreement is an initiative of Y-12’s Socioeconomic Programs Office. Kenneth Lewis will be the technical contact for the agreement.

“It is a perfect match for BWXT Y-12 to have a mentor-protégé agreement with SCSU because they are the only HBCU with a nuclear engineering program,” Ruddy said. There are 105 HBCUs in the United States, with approximately 80 percent of them located nearby.

“By providing students with a quality education, HBCUs are continuing to help America remain a place of opportunity and hope for every citizen.” — President George W. Bush

“Signs, signs, everywhere a sign” — William Butler Yeats


dennis@y-12.gov
Mike Monnett said he intends to be as open as he possibly can about what’s going on at Oak Ridge’s nuclear weapons plant and, at the same time, tread that fine line of national security. “When I can’t tell you, I’ll tell you I can’t tell you. If I can’t tell you because I don’t know, I’ll tell you that too,” Monnett told The Oak Ridger on his first official day as public relations manager.

As for Monnett, he has worked at Y-12 for just over four years. In his role as public relations manager, Monnett will report directly to Randy Spickard, director of National Security Programs, but he’ll have “immediate access as necessary” to Dennis Ruddy, president and general manager of BWXT Y-12.

Monnett’s previous Y-12 jobs pertained to the areas of Business Development and Work For Others—essentially a research and technical assistance program. Prior to joining Y-12, Monnett had a 20-year run in the U.S. Army, with public affairs as one of his specialties.

Cheney plugs Y-12’s secure storage of Libyan stash

“One of the great achievements, I think, of the President’s policy is—having pursued a very tough course in Afghanistan and Iraq—Moammar Ghadafi in Libya watched all of this. And as we launched into Iraq, he contacted the British and American governments. He got hold of Tony Blair and George Bush—he didn’t call Kofi Annan and the United Nations—and indicated he wanted to discuss his program for weapons of mass destruction because he was investing millions in developing nuclear weapons. Five days after we captured Saddam Hussein, he went public and announced he was going to give up all of his nuclear materials. And he’s done so. It’s all locked up now down at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. That would not have happened without the very tough, aggressive course we followed with respect to Afghanistan and Iraq. It’s the direct result of strong leadership by the President and the superb performance of the U.S. military. And we’re all safer today because Libya is no longer trying to acquire nuclear weapons. And that’s a lesson that I think that we all need to keep in mind as we think about the alternative.”

Y-12 names new manager of public relations

Y-12 names new manager of public relations

The ‘BEST’ of times at Y-12

The BEST of times, or Building Everyone Safe Tomorrows, occurs when all employees are working safely and go home safely. The goal is a safe culture that provides every employee the opportunity to achieve an injury-free career.

BEST is a proactive, continuous improvement process that uses behaviors as performance indicators for preventing accidents.

Behavior is defined as an observable act. The purpose of behavior-based safety is to increase safe behaviors and reduce at-risk behaviors while also identifying and removing any barriers to working safely. The site goal is for every employee to be observed at least once a month.

There are four elements of BEST: identifying critical behaviors [Critical Behavior Inventory (CBI) datasheets], gathering data (observations), providing feedback and using data to remove barriers.

Through these elements, the BEST process will achieve the following objectives.
• Reinforce safe behaviors through feedback about the safe and at-risk behaviors.
• Provide an opportunity at least once a month to talk with a coworker about safety on a more personal level.
• Remove barriers that either prevent safe behaviors or encourage at-risk behaviors.
• Reduce and prevent exposures and injuries.

For more details about the BEST process, visit the BBS homepage at https://home1.y12.doe.gov/bbsafety/.

CURRENT BEST STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of employees trained as observers</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of observations conducted</td>
<td>2,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of safe behaviors observed</td>
<td>15,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of at-risk behaviors observed</td>
<td>1,856</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“It’s been a heck of a year for Y-12.”

More than 2,700 Y-12 employees were in attendance for the all-hands meeting held at the Knoxville Civic Coliseum where Dennis Ruddy, BWXT Y-12 president and general manager, gave a “state-of-the-plant” address.

If you were unable to attend the meeting, videotapes and DVDs are available from Video and Videoconferencing Services (574-1639). The video is also available at your desktop via streaming video at https://home1.y12.doe.gov/cs/stream/. Clicking on Available Streams will take you to the All-Hands Meeting 2004 link. The stream runs 55 minutes and is Official Use Only.

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DENNIS RUDDY’S PRESENTATION

“I’m very proud to be standing up here almost one year to the day since the last time we got together and to talk to you about where we are today, where we’re going and how we’re going to get there.”

“We had some important visitors acknowledge the work we do here, among them the President of the United States, the Secretary of Energy and the Nuclear Weapons Council. Each left with an impression of the dedication, hard work and support for national and world freedom we all at Y-12 work so hard every day to make possible.

“At an individual level, we’ve increased our United Way participation 30 percent this year. That’s a remarkable record, and, over the last two years, we’ve increased our participation by almost 60 percent. That puts hundred of thousands of dollars to help the people in the community who don’t have the good jobs we do, who don’t have the stability, who don’t have the blessings we do working at Y-12.”

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

“Last year we moved up into the 90s, a performance grade that had never been seen around here. And it’s attributable to the hard work that’s done in every division, in every department across the site.”
“After running No More Surprises for 13 months, we’re approaching 5,000 submissions, touching every area. I mean, we get people asking about benefits, about pensions, about all the things important to them, but we also get a lot of clues as to what we need to do to fix the plant.

“In the area of communications, another big accomplishment was reorganizing to get the number of steps between any one of you and me reduced. Once again, it’s easier to manage our communications, easier to understand what the organizational structures are and easier to understand where the responsibilities are and where the interfaces are in the organization.”

“Twice in the last 11 months or so, we’ve been able to sustain runs of more than three million hours where no one was injured badly enough to lose work.”

“In four years, we’ve knocked down 650,000 square feet of buildings, and to give you an idea of what that means, the administration building was about 45,000 square feet.

“Our new Purification Facility is scheduled for completion in October, and it is the first new building of the new Y-12.

“We’ve just gotten internal approvals for a private financing deal . . . . We have people in the community willing to invest $100 million in Y-12.

“. . . by 2013, the active footprint at the site will be down to about 3.1 million square feet. . . . our active footprint will be less than half of the 7.5 million square feet that it was at the millennium.”

“. . . now people are coming into the plant and telling us we are leaders, we have set the new paradigm in thinking about security.”

“Our great year is measured in $180 million vote of confidence from Congress. It’s measured in the way we’ve interacted with the community up to and including our participation in United Way. It’s measured in a 92 percent performance rating last year . . . .

“So thank you all so very much for a great year, and I’m looking forward to another exciting and great year in FY 2005. So, thanks. Thanks very much.”

Y-12 Fundamentals launched at All-Hands

To adequately address the culture at Y-12, the guiding principles that govern our work were identified and communicated at the 2004 All-Hands Meeting; badge cards listing the 12 fundamentals were distributed at the meeting.

The first fundamental is “Be honest and ethical in all you do. Personal honesty and integrity form the basis for our business.” Larry Cumberland, division manager of the Quality Assurance organization, is the management champion for this fundamental. Each fundamental will be highlighted through October 2005.

If you have questions about the fundamentals, contact Dave Alger (ZLA) at 574-8459 or review the Fundamentals Web site at http://home1.y12.doe.gov/pga/fundamentals.shtml.
June

43 Years
Engineering: James N. Abele

42 Years
Applied Technologies: Kibbee D. Streetman

35 Years
Contracts and Special Initiatives: Letitia P. Murr
Engineering: Billy H. Adkins and Gary M. Henderson
Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: Melvin Passmore and Donald R. Sharp
Information and Materials Division: Robert W. Napier
Manufacturing: Roger D. Bolin, Donnie R. Satterfield, Kenneth D. Smith, David E. Thomason and Dewitt Upton
Planning and Integration: Bryce L. Wilkinson

30 Years
Applied Technologies: Stephen T. Piotrowski
Engineering: Joaquim L. Heck Jr. and Janice D. Ramsey
Environment, Safety and Health: Michael S. Elliott and Jacqueline Hill
Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: David L. Fritts
Financial Management: Mary H. Bunch
Manufacturing: Marlene C. Summerall
National Security Programs: John E. Holbrook
Quality Assurance: Bruce L. Cox, Gayle G. Harvey and Thomas A. Morris

25 Years
Applied Technologies: James H. Clift, Sharon E. Jacobsen, Shirley M. McConico and Patrick J. Mountain
Engineering: Michael E. Greene, Mary S. Long, Darrell J. Lott, Eugene Losyniak, Susan S. Paulus and John K. Praziak
Environment, Safety and Health: Christopher K. Hill and William S. Trotter
Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: George R. Davis, Mary J. Henley, James R. Simpson III and David A. Treadway
Human Resources: Garland Sharp
Information and Materials Division: Edwin F. Abercrombie
Projects: Dinah L. Sexton
Safeguards and Security: Geneva C. Johnson

20 Years
Applied Technologies: Melissa P. North
Engineering: Stephen M. McTeer
Environment, Safety and Health: Donna H. Hall
Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: Carl W. Capps
Human Resources: Paula D. Morris
Manufacturing: Gerald L. Wagner
National Security Programs: Katie M. McKeeman
Quality Assurance: Larry E. Pender
Safeguards and Security: Peter D. White

July

41 Years
Information and Materials Division: Frances H. Hickey and Betty B. Willkerson

35 Years
Engineering: Charles M. Cook
Human Resources: Daniel D. Cottrell
Information and Materials Division: Shirley W. Goins
Manufacturing: Gene E. Johnson, James E. Shaw and Richard C. Wright Jr.
Planning and Integration: Thomas L. Crisp
Quality Assurance: Charles D. Plemons

30 Years
Environment, Safety and Health: Gloria K. Lane
Information and Materials Division: Mary C. Ferguson, Melissa F. Rogers and Karen T. Strange
Manufacturing: Thomas L. Feezell, Steve E. Garner, Paul Redmon and Donnie G. Schrimpske
National Security Programs: John T. Maxwell Jr.
Quality Assurance: Gerald W. Turk, John R. Caddell Jr. and Johnny E. Elkins
Safeguards and Security: Kimberland C. Jeffers

25 Years
Engineering: David B. Fielden, Hermie J. Grimsby and Ronald H. Wantland
Environment, Safety and Health: Ronald A. Evans and Perry D. Pruitt
Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: Jerry L. Gallaher, Leon C. Partridge and Mitchell D. Tackett
Human Resources: Roberta A. Chin
Manufacturing: Steven M. Eberhardt, John M. Royster and Russell C. Woody

20 Years
Engineering: Gregg S. Bass, Pamela B. Deathridge and Michael G. Thress
Environment, Safety and Health: Clarence C. Hill and Wayne O. Lawless
Facilities, Infrastructure and Services:  
David Farmer  
Human Resources: Lora L. Wilcher  
Information and Materials Division: Sharon G. Mellon and Paul M. Parris  
Manufacturing: Lavonne D. Golden and Steven C. Laggis  
Safeguards and Security: Mary Jeanne French

August

54 Years  
Quality Assurance: Theodore W. Robinson

42 Years  
Applied Technologies: Matthew J. O’Hara

35 Years  
Engineering: James A. Burgess, Loren E. Carey and Michael W. Rowland  
Environment, Safety and Health: Boyd T. Gose Jr., Edward M. Ingram and Danny P. Rowan  
Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: Jerry Lasley  
Information and Materials Division: Jerry Lasley  
Manufacturing: Russell J. Leach

30 Years  
Engineering: James E. Wallace Jr.  
Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: James E. Mayes, Michael S. Ratledge, Beverly J. Taylor and James R. Tidwell  
Information and Materials Division: Nancy P. Shedden  
Manufacturing: James D. Antrican Jr., Patricia T. Gross, James A. Strickland and Randall B. Toney  
Safeguards and Security: Thomas J. Kesterson Jr. and Adolphus King

25 Years  
Applied Technologies: Glenda K. Turner

Directed Stockpile Work: Larry D. Snow  
Engineering: William E. Manrod III and Richard E. Stamps  
Environment, Safety and Health: Gary L. Seeber  
Equal Opportunity/Concerns: Sylvia L. Davis  
Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: Jerry B. Adderholdt, Ferland Elliott, Paul R. Goins, Carlos E. Graves, Thomas E. Hensley, Calvin B. McMillan, David L. Monroe and Larry E. Robbins  
Financial Management: Robert S. Ressegue  
Human Resources: Brenda D. Crisp and Paul G. Maples  
Legal: Conard L. Stair  
Manufacturing: Janet L. Eskridge, Thurmon E. Johnston Jr. and Andy L. Moore  
National Security Programs: John A. Cox and Kathie L. Stephens  
Quality Assurance: Jimmy E. Madison and William T. McKeethan  
Safeguards and Security: David L. McMurray

25 Years  
Applied Technologies: William D. Brosey  
Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: David W. Oran and Lonnie R. Overbay  
Manufacturing: Betsy K. Crawford  
National Security Programs: Gordon L. Dippo and James T. Mottern Jr.  
Quality Assurance: Gerald C. Marsh and Derrick S. Zingg  
Safeguards and Security: Stephen A. McGuire

20 Years  
Engineering: Gail D. Hackett  
Environment, Safety and Health: Jennifer Emch and Robert W. James  
Financial Management: Thomas J. Lewis  
Manufacturing: Denny R. Ellison  
Planning and Integration: Katherine J. Martin  
Quality Assurance: Michael D. Wheeler  
Correction  
The following person was inadvertently omitted in the March anniversary list:  
35 Years  
National Security Programs: Shirley Andrews
Nuclear Weapons Council visits

Y-12 recently hosted more than 60 members of the Nuclear Weapons Council Standing and Safety committee. Comprised of high-ranking U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration officials and military representatives, the committee advises and assists the three-member council in determining the composition of the nation's nuclear stockpile.

Bill Reis, director of Directed Stockpile Work programs at Y-12, established the theme for the visit—the Y-12 National Security Complex provides safe and secure storage of nuclear material, uses the latest technology to produce high-quality products in support of stockpile stewardship and is aggressively modernizing to ensure its infrastructure is capable, responsive and cost-efficient.

The visitors toured selected facilities during their visit. At each stop in the plant, they witnessed Y-12 staff performing weapons-related work. This work included a quality evaluation teardown, a disassembly and machining and inspection of various components. Staff members provided brief explanations of the showcased work and answered questions.

At the south overlook, the committee members received a briefing on modernization plans along with a description of the successes achieved by the Infrastructure Reduction program.

Reis and Rick Collier of NNSA’s Y-12 Site Office joined the tour group for the next stops, the Kansas City Plant and Whiteman Air Force Base, the latter being home to the U.S. Air Force’s B2 Stealth bomber strike force. In an e-mail to his staff, Reis indicated that the NWC members were still talking about the excellent tours and the positive impression made by Y-12’s workforce two days after they left Tennessee.