

the Y-12 times

A newsletter for employees and friends
of the Y-12 National Security Complex

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CLEANUP FUNDING COMING

It's a package deal: Y-12 will receive almost \$300 million to fund environmental cleanup, which, in turn, will preserve jobs at the site and help the local economy.

ARRA accelerates cleanup, site transformation at Y-12

The Environmental Management program at the Y-12 National Security Complex will receive nearly \$300 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The funds given to Y-12 are part of the \$755 million received by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Oak Ridge Office Environmental Management program. This funding allows Y-12 to expedite cleanup projects that focus on preparing contaminated, deteriorating facilities for demolition, thus greatly reducing future operating costs.

John Krueger, senior program director of Y-12's Waste Management and Integrated Facilities Disposition Program, is the program manager for the ARRA activities and explained, "This funding is really a boost to Y-12 for three reasons: to accelerate cleanup, facilitate the National Nuclear Security Administration's [NNSA's] vision for Y-12 transformation and reduce risks from Cold War legacies."

Work will begin soon on three projects. Y-12's Alpha 5 (Building 9201-5) is an initial area of focus. An estimated one million cubic feet of legacy material will be removed, which will prepare the facility for accelerated deactivation and decommissioning (D&D).

"The emphasis on Alpha 5 is strategic. The goal is to make Y-12's high security area smaller, resulting in a far more efficient cleanup program at Y-12," explained Krueger.

The other initial projects are material removal from Beta 4 (Building 9204-4), preparing it for accelerated D&D like Alpha 5, and the complete cleanup of a 7-acre salvage yard.

Additional projects include the demolition of four Biology Complex buildings and Building 9735; demolition of the Building 9206 filter housing and cleanup of the recovery furnace; and remediation of storm sewer pipelines in the Upper East Fork Poplar Creek watershed.

"This cleanup and demolition is vital to environmental stewardship, essential for site transformation needed for evolving national security missions and expected to save taxpayers millions of dollars per year," said B&W Y-12 President and General Manager Darrel Kohlhorst.

Ted Sherry, NNSA Y-12 Site Office manager, said, "This funding will enable us to make clear progress in addressing some of the Cold War legacies of past operations at Y-12. Through this DOE Environmental Management funding, we will address legacy environmental issues and both prepare and demolish a number of contaminated and deteriorating facilities. This is an important first step in transforming Y-12 with modern facilities for the future."

REDESIGNING THE

Design changes to the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) are making a big impact in reducing the building's size and cost as well as optimizing space within the facility. For the past several months, designers have been studying new information about certain security features, facility configuration, and layout of the various processes within the facility. The end product is a smaller, simplified building that still allows flexibility in process layout and utility design.

Although the final impact to the project's overall cost from these changes is still evolving, cost savings or avoidances have already been identified in several areas.

- Excavation and backfill savings: 492,000 cubic yards. This amount of combined excavation and backfill would fill a football field to a depth of more than 275 feet or fill one of the new 2,000,000-gallon water tanks on Bear Creek Road 50 times.
- Concrete savings: 54,600 cubic yards. This amount of concrete would fill 6,100 concrete trucks or build a 5-foot-wide sidewalk from Oak Ridge to Nashville.
- Structural steel savings: 359 tons (about 18 tractor trailer loads) have been identified by the team.
- Commodity cost decreases: In addition to a significant reduction in commodity costs for items such as stainless steel, carbon steel and copper have decreased over the last few months. This decrease results in an avoidance to the UPF project of \$120 million. This amount of money is approximately equal to the cost to construct and furnish both the Jack Case and New Hope centers.

Realizing the Y-12 vision

Following is an excerpt from President and General Manager Darrel Kohlhorst's introduction to Y-12's Strategic Plan, issued April 2009. View the plan at http://ysource.y12.doe.gov/data/pdf/strategicplan_09.pdf to read the four objectives, the strategies to achieve the objectives and the success indicators.

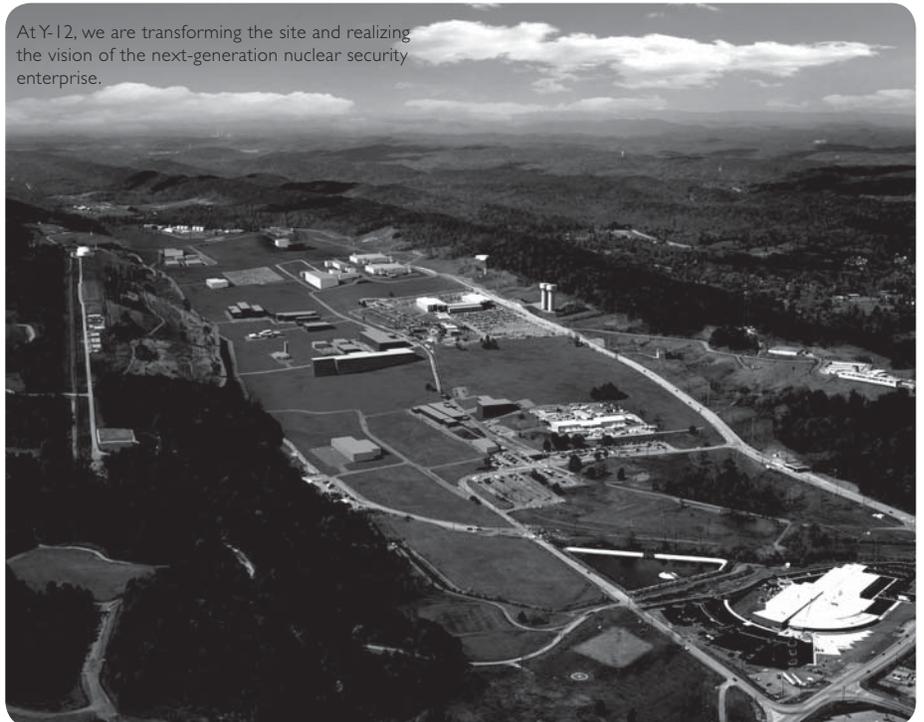
Seldom has the nuclear security enterprise and Y-12 faced a more demanding need for change than now. The nation must react to world political and global security change, increasing terrorist threats, evolution of our national policies, and the demands of a strained national economy. The very essence of our national nuclear deterrence policy and the future of the nuclear security enterprise will face critical decisions over the next several years.

For the past 3 years, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has been developing its pathway for transforming the nuclear security enterprise to meet the dynamic national and world demands. During 2008, NNSA established a Record of Decision for Complex Transformation and the major elements required to realize that transformation. As part of that decision, Y-12 will continue as the Uranium Center of Excellence and as a vital element of our nation's nuclear deterrence capability. At Y-12, we are transforming the site and realizing the vision of the next-generation nuclear security enterprise. This strategic plan outlines the four objectives—responsive workforce, productivity, transformation, and innovation and growth—to achieve this vision.

As we work to establish the Y-12 of the future, we will continue to place the highest importance on protecting the health and safety of our employees and the public; protecting the environment; and protecting the security of this enduring national asset.

I challenge everyone at Y-12 to read this strategic plan and understand your role in achieving our vision. Y-12 is moving forward to transform, meet the challenges of the future, and continue its role as an essential asset to our country's national security.

At Y-12, we are transforming the site and realizing the vision of the next-generation nuclear security enterprise.



Join the relay

Y-12 employees, families and friends are encouraged to join the fight against cancer at the 2009 Anderson County Relay for Life event at the Oak Ridge High School Track May 29 and 30.

"It's a celebration of all those friends and family members who have fought the battle and are beating it," Kathy Davis, Y-12 team captain said.

Laura Oxley of Environment, Safety and Health is also a member of the team and encourages co-workers to join the fight against cancer. "Most people have been touched by the disease in one way or another, so it doesn't take a lot to get people's attention. The main thing is getting the word out so people get involved."

How can you help? "Even if you can't attend the event, you can donate to the American Cancer Society," Oxley said. "All proceeds go directly to the cause."

"Every little bit counts," Davis said. "No amount is too small; no effort put forth is too little."

Y-12's goal is \$21,000. "We'll be selling luminaries again that people can buy in honor or in memory of those who have suffered from the disease," Oxley said. "This year, we're adding bracelet sales."

If you would like to sign up and join the Y-12 team, contact Davis (9kd; 241-2186) or visit the team's (Y-12 Gatekeepers/Y-We Care) website at http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=15382.

Relay for Life is an American Cancer Society overnight event, where teams of people camp out and take turns walking or running around the track. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event.



At last year's Relay for Life, Projects' Brett Cederdahl (left) and Dennis Grove dressed up to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

Not your mother's potato chip bag

It may resemble a potato chip bag, but the aluminum Mylar bag being used at Y-12 has been quite successful at keeping more than snack food dry. The simple bag protects parts from moisture, which has affected production efficiency for years.

"We chose the bags because they are readily available, flexible and inexpensive," said Dean Little of Applied Technologies. They have an inner layer of polyethylene, like the baggie in your refrigerator, and layers of aluminum and Mylar on the outside. The top is a convenient Ziploc seal, and the bottom is gusseted like a garbage bag.

The bags are used in conjunction with traditional containers—a redundancy approach sometimes referred to as "belts and suspenders." Current containers are old, in poor condition from years of handling and difficult to refurbish and maintain. Replacement containers are expensive, and sturdier designs would result in heavier lifting for material handlers.

"Since the bags were instituted in early December, there have been no rejections of parts because of moisture," said Little. To enhance longer term storage protection, heat sealing of the bags is being implemented as an improvement over the Ziploc seals.

In addition to Applied Technologies, Quality Assurance and Engineering worked on the improvement.



Jim Truett (left) and Dean Little, both of Applied Technologies, helped come up with an innovative solution for keeping parts moisture free.

State of the creek

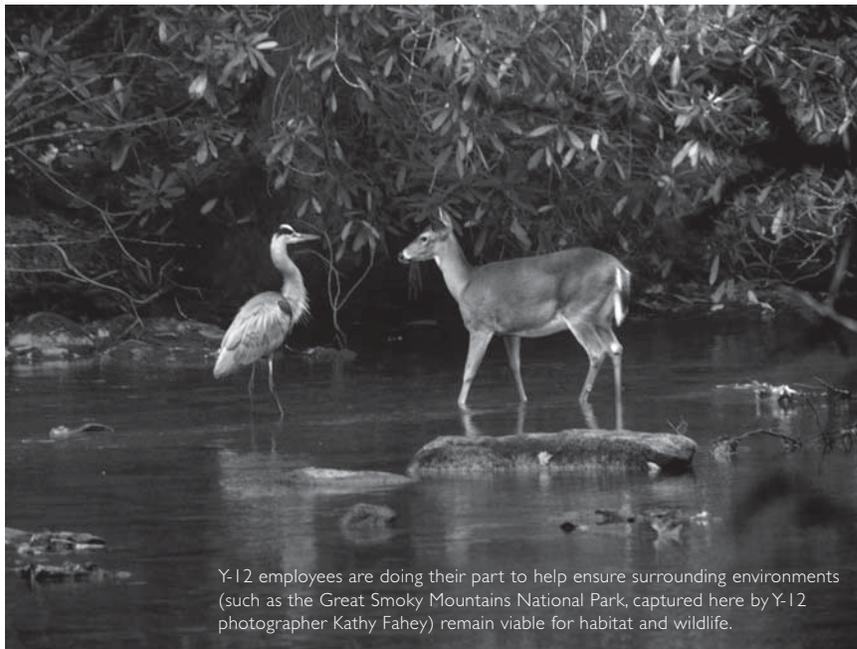
Aquatic biologists have found a significant improvement in the ecological health of East Fork Poplar Creek. The stream, which originates within the Y-12 National Security Complex and flows through Oak Ridge, continues to recover from its Cold War legacy of contamination.

The 2008 study of the creek shows positive trends. There have been no significant negative changes in the status of the creek since this study was completed.

The health of the stream has improved, as shown by substantial increases in the number and abundance of fish and benthic macroinvertebrate species, especially those that are more sensitive to pollution.

The ongoing recovery of East Fork Poplar Creek can be largely attributed to the numerous environmental improvement projects, pollution prevention measures and remedial actions undertaken at Y-12 since the mid-1980s.

Oak Ridge National Laboratory biologist Mark Peterson presented the information on the 2008 study at the State of the Creek address held April 16 at Y-12.



Y-12 employees are doing their part to help ensure surrounding environments (such as the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, captured here by Y-12 photographer Kathy Fahey) remain viable for habitat and wildlife.

MAKING OTHERS GREEN WITH ENVY

Green, sustainable, environmentally friendly. Here are a few recent activities Y-12 employees are doing to help Y-12 become greener:

- Y-12 was presented with a Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Performer flag in March. Y-12 is only the second government agency in the state to receive this honor.
- By partnering with Environmental Compliance and the Sustainability and Stewardship Program, Information Technology is zapping the amount of electricity consumed by Y-12 users by replacing excess CRT monitors with flat-panel monitors. An estimated savings of 17,000 kilowatt-hours may be realized, which equates to 0.08 percent of the total energy Y-12 consumed in January 2009.
- Y-12 recycles all components of computing equipment except for a very small amount that is not allowable because of cyber security requirements.
- Because of Y-12's efforts, a vendor in Chicago can now recycle computer circuit boards that are common in computing equipment but difficult to handle when it comes to recycling. This task was a major environmental victory, resulting in thousands of circuit boards being recycled.
- Oliver's Catering (Y-12 cafeteria manager) sorts and recycles all cans, plastic bottles, cardboard, waste oil products, paper and napkins from the food trays placed on the cafeteria conveyor belt. Leftover food is collected and ground through a disposal instead of being thrown directly into a trash can. Items that cannot be recycled, such as large Number 1 food cans, are crushed onsite.
- Since 1992, more than 44,800 pounds of aluminum beverage cans have been recycled. Revenues from the can recycling are then donated to area charities.
- Y-12 donated two tanker cars to the Southern Appalachia Railway Museum and helped the environment by keeping more than 47 tons of metal from being disposed of as waste.
- More than 50 Y-12 team members participated at the Run for Clean Air in April.
- In June, the Environment, Safety and Health Expo will focus on green activities.

Wilson: 'Get your feet dirty'

Why participate in the March of Dimes March for Babies walk? Keith Wilson has an answer.

"It is just like buying car insurance: You may never need it, but if you do, it pays to have it," said Wilson. "Giving to the March of Dimes follows the same principle—you never know when you will have a child or grandchild with a birth defect or born preterm who can benefit from this great organization."

Wilson is the Y-12 team coordinator for this year's walk. Last year, the Atomic Trades and Labor Council (ATLC)/B&W Y-12 team placed sixth overall in the Anderson/Roane/Loudon walk, raising \$3,917 for the organization. This year's goal is \$5,000.

"The ATLC has been supporting the March of Dimes for 11 years with the help of the contractors at Y-12," said Wilson. "We are trying to get all organizations involved in raising money."

This year's walk will be May 2. Registration starts at 8 a.m. at Bissell Park in Oak Ridge, and the walk begins at 9 a.m. Even though the event is being held the same day as Y-12's Day of Volunteering, Wilson is hopeful for a good turnout. "What I have been telling people is, 'If you don't want to get your hands dirty, get your feet dirty,'" he said.

The March of Dimes seeks to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

To contribute to the ATLC/B&W Y-12 team after the walk, contact Wilson (86w; 241-4334).



Angela West buys a plush bear from Keith Wilson. Proceeds from the sale of the stuffed bears, candy and other items benefit the March of Dimes.

Egg Hunt Success!



Children enjoyed visiting with the YES bunny.

When you mix more than 100 children and grandchildren of Y-12 employees with approximately 2,000 eggs filled with candy or worth a special prize, what do you get? Excited children running wild at the third Y-12 Employees' Society (YES) egg hunt.

Information Technology's Elaine Warren took her 15-month-old granddaughter, Emily, to the event. "I appreciate all the time spent by the YES committee to coordinate events for Y-12 employees. The Easter egg hunt was so much fun for the children."

YES bunny Rashaun Williams, vice president of YES, enjoyed

meeting and greeting the kids. "The bunny suit was a bit restricting in allowing me to see the kids, but those who participated seemed to have a good time."

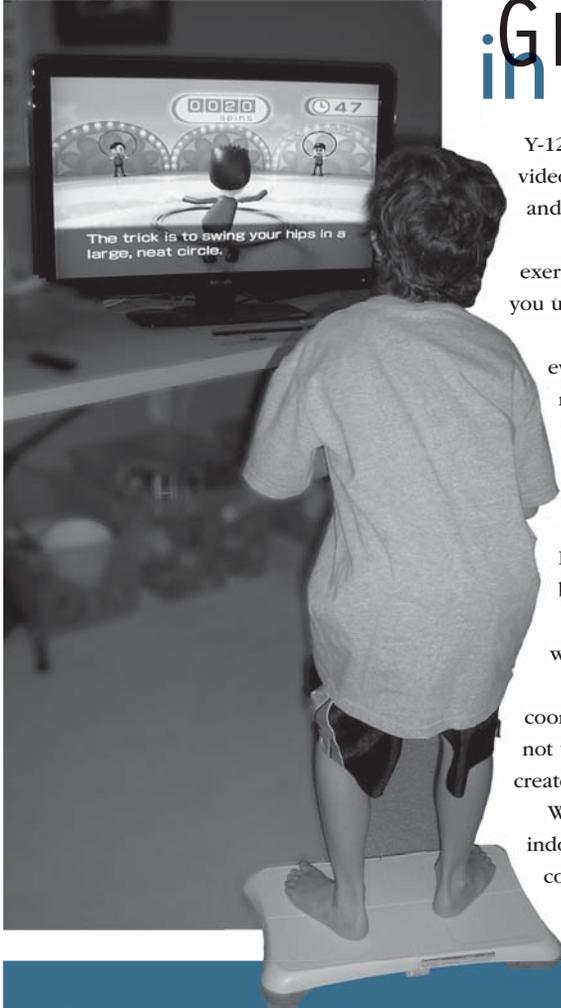
Lynn Beck of Publishing Communications appreciates what YES does. She and two of her grandchildren enjoyed the egg hunt. "They [YES] did a terrific job and expended a lot of energy. They should have gotten a medal!"

YES president Lisa Harris wants events like the egg hunt to promote participation in YES. "YES is for employees, and we want all Y-12 employees involved. I encourage everyone to participate in a YES-sponsored event and join in on the fun."



After the hunt, the children enjoy opening their prized eggs.

GET in the game



Y-12 employees are taking a new look at fitness and hitting the video games—the Wii Fit video game developed by Nintendo for the Wii console. It’s a cross between a fitness tool and a video game, which makes it unique and appealing to even the non-gaming crowd.

The training has roughly 40 different activities including yoga poses, push-ups, and exercises for strength, balance and aerobics. The longer you work out, the more exercises you unlock, which provides plenty of variety.

Environment, Safety and Health’s (ES&H) Sam Lariviere said his family uses it almost every day. He noted it doesn’t replace aerobic sports, but it does strengthen core muscles. Lariviere said, “It’s not as good as a run or a game of soccer but much better than doing nothing.” Another benefit: It cuts down on time spent watching TV.

Mona Wright, Publishing Communications, said, “I wasn’t doing anything that closely resembled exercise until I got the Wii Fit program.” She tries to use it every day and has seen a definite improvement in her level of fitness. Her co-worker Stuart Hames uses it about three days per week. He said, “I expect to see more obvious benefits after I’ve used it a while. I really enjoy it.”

ES&H Vice President Michelle Reichert said, “It is fun and a great form of exercise with continuous feedback to the user.”

While the Wii Fit does offer fun and exercise, Levette Harris-Bethea, Y-12’s wellness coordinator, offered a word of caution: “Overuse injuries and hyperextension issues are not uncommon.” She reminds players that Wii Fit uses body mass index (BMI) to help create your image for the game, so be aware that BMI is not the only gage of fitness.

When the weather is bad and the work days are long, users agree it’s nice to have an indoor, at-home option for exercise. Wright added, the program requires “getting off the couch and working up a little sweat,” so it helps increase your level of activity.

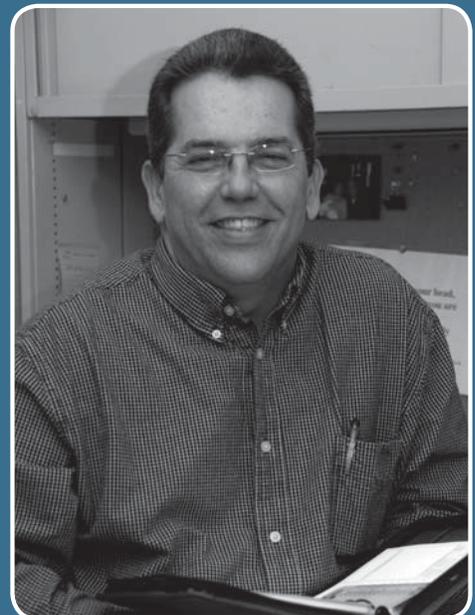
Playing by the rules

Frank Lyles finds that being a shift manager/shift technical advisor is a lot like being an umpire in a baseball game.

Lyles said he determines when the “game” will start, and he makes sure everyone knows and plays by the rules. And, of course, if you don’t play fair, he won’t hesitate to stop the game and even throw you out.

He said he enjoys the challenge of working with different aspects of a production facility. His job is to help ensure safety and security, which in turn helps Y-12 accomplish its mission and ultimately helps keep the nation and the world safe. His goal is to contribute to that mission and make sure all members of his team return to their families each evening in same condition in which they left that morning.

Lyles said he reviews and updates security plans and safety basis documents, as well as maintains inventories. He noted that while he juggles different goals and personalities, he makes teamwork everyone’s objective. He also has a thirst for knowledge when it comes to doing the best job he can. “Learning new things is never ending,” he said.



“Umpire” Frank Lyles helps keep Y-12 employees safe and secure.

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

Many of the Manhattan Project photographs, taken by Ed Westcott, that are on display throughout Y-12 are self-explanatory, but one photo hanging in the Jack Case Center left many unanswered questions.

When asked about the story behind the photo shown at right, Y-12 historian Ray Smith went to work.

“It’s not that unusual to get questions about these wonderful documentary images,” Smith said. “I was determined to learn the story about this young lady and the soldier, so I e-mailed the image to Ed asking him if he could identify the photograph.”

Westcott didn’t disappoint Smith. He replied, “The photograph is of Mrs. Richardson, wife of Sergeant Jasper Richardson, as she received the Exceptionally Meritorious Conduct, Oak Leaf Cluster award [on behalf of her late husband] from Lieutenant James E. Thornton, U.S. Army Air Corps.”

Smith said, “Ed knew the exact circumstances surrounding the scene. The photograph on the file cabinet in the image is her husband, who was killed in action.”

Bill Sliski of Industrial Hygiene gave Smith additional information. “The medal the woman is holding is the Air Medal with Oak Leaves. This would signify a second or subsequent award. The soldier in the photo also seems to have either a marksman’s or sharpshooter’s badge.”

Smith encourages all employees to view the story-filled Westcott photos on display in the Jack Case and New Hope centers. All it takes is a little sleuthing and some questioning, and Y-12’s rich history comes alive.



An Ed Westcott photo from the 1940s shows the widow of Sergeant Jasper Richardson receiving an honorary medal (the Exceptionally Meritorious Conduct, Oak Leaf Cluster award) on his behalf.

SERVICE



ANNIVERSARIES

April

41 years

Emergency Services: Donnie W. Burney

40 years

Document and Property Management: Brian A. Shanks

Production: Terry W. Barnes, Douglas Chandler, Susie M. Collier, James R. Queener and William J. Reynolds

Quality Assurance: Emmett J. Walker

Resource Management: Frank A. Young

35 years

Engineering: Gregory A. Niemeyer

Multimedia: John E. Ridley

30 years

Ethics and Internal Audit: Gwenda R. Childress
Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: Roy W. Carpenter, James N. Coward, William P. Hughes and Donnie L. Jones

Nuclear Materials Control and Accountability: William H. Power

Production: Raymond R. Lasley, James T. Lowery, William V. Rankin and Marshall L. Rickard

Quality Assurance: William E. Hodge Jr. and Randy O. McCloskey

25 years

Applied Technologies: Quirinus G. Grindstaff and Dewey P. Harless

Budgets: Teresa N. Thrower

Engineering: James T. Fowler

Environment, Safety and Health: Margaret W. Terrell

Production: Pamela D. Johnson

Quality Assurance: Larry E. Bowers and Mary W. Dye

20 years

Contractor Assurance: Charles E. Harmon

Engineering: Angela L. Reed

Environment, Safety and Health: James M. Eaton and John H. Shumpert

Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: Timothy H. Simerly

Information Technology: James F. Hughes

Material Management: Mary A. Curry

Production: Timothy F. Neal

Publishing Communications: Gail E. Powell

Utilities Management: Nancy E. Culberson

In memoriam

Curtis Coile, who worked in Production, passed away March 21. He had two years of company service.

“Curtis often spoke of his family,” co-worker Thomas Fields said. “He liked sports of all types and enjoyed camping and fishing. Curtis was always friendly and pleasant to be around. He also enjoyed being with his co-workers. He had a strong work ethic.”

Relay for Life

May 29–30
Oak Ridge High School Track
Contact Kathy Davis
241-2186

ES&H EXPO

June 10
New Hope Center
Contact Ed Werden
576-6048



Congressman Davis is a supporter of the nuclear security enterprise and sees Y-12 as a national asset as well as an important Tennessee business.”

—Bill Klemm, B&W Y-12 senior vice president and deputy general manager

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Congressman Lincoln Davis briefed at Y-12

Congressman Lincoln Davis toured the Y-12 National Security Complex in late March.

Davis recently was appointed to the House Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, which oversees Y-12's funding.

“Congressman Davis is learning as much as he can about the institutions his committee supports,” said Bill Klemm, B&W Y-12 senior vice president and deputy general manager. “Building the 2011–2015 budget requires specific knowledge of the sites to effectively fund competing programs.”

Davis took a look at Y-12's existing production facilities and also visited the new highly enriched uranium storage facility.

In addition, his visit included a discussion of the Uranium

Processing Facility (UPF), a proposed facility that would replace the existing 9212 production center.

“He clearly understood the need for UPF in the face of the oversized, outdated facilities currently in use,” said Klemm. “He was pleased with his visit and complimentary of Y-12 staff and employees.”



Congressman Lincoln Davis, left, listens while B&W Y-12 President and General Manager Darrel Kohlhorst explains Y-12's production activities. Davis toured Y-12 as a newly appointed member of the House Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee.