

Purification Facility construction progressing well

Work on the first production facility built at Y-12 since the early 1970s is proceeding well, said Mark Sollenberger, project manager for the new Purification Facility.

The new facility is the first of Y-12's modernization efforts to reach this stage of execution.

"We are pumped," Sollenberger said.

Major excavation and rock backfilling of the site have been completed. Underground utilities are being installed and tested.

The first concrete pour of duct banks and facility foundation

walls was completed in early November. The project is on a tight, aggressive schedule according to Sollenberger.

The \$50 million facility is the first major construction in the modernization efforts at the plant and will recycle and purify special materials. The project is part of the Special Materials Capabilities program of Y-12's multiyear modernization plan. The facility is scheduled for completion in 2004.

Sollenberger points out that while ground may have been broken in late summer, he and his team, which includes

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environment, safety and health; construction; facility safety; scheduling; estimating; quality and business management, have been working the plan for three years.

"We've spent three years working through the challenges of building a nonnuclear, chemically hazardous facility inside the fence of a nuclear facility," said Sollenberger. "This team has had to lay all new track, they've had to establish the norm for the other facilities to come, and they've done it spectacularly."

Scott Cannon, National

Nuclear Security Administration project director, said, "I second Mark's statement about the Integrated Project Team (IPT). This is the best project team, contractor and federal, I have worked with in my 18-year career. The NNSA/BWXT corporate commitment and the IPT's personal commitment are the major reasons for the success of this project."

Core team members are Carol Boudreaux, Susan Corpstein, Terry Ferguson, Rick Whitson, Robert Rettberg, Elmer Baum, Ronald Jeffers, Gary Johnson, Mike Lassiter, Mickie



Workers perform the first concrete pour of duct banks for the Purification Facility.

Brad Walker, Bron Johnston, Robert Gee, Wayne McMahon, Donna Watson, Sollenberger and Cannon.

The 10,000 square-foot concrete and steel building with brick veneer was designed by Pro2Serve of Oak Ridge and is being built by Foley Construction of Kansas City, Mo. It is expected to create some 70 to 80 jobs during construction and will provide six to eight jobs during