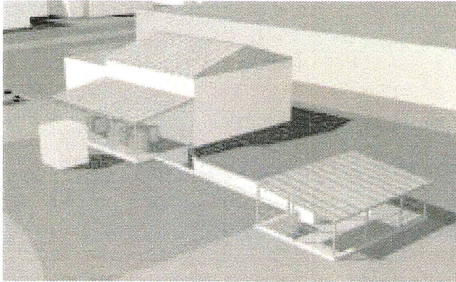


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## First Modernization project receives Critical Decision 1

With the National Nuclear Security Administration's approval of a Critical Decision 1 (CD-1) package March 11, BWXT Y-12 has the green light to start design on its first capital line-item project at Y-12 since 1997. The Purification Facility (PPTF) is also the first Y-12 project to be under the new DOE Preliminary Engineering and Design process effective in October 2000.



Artist's conceptual rendering of the Purification Facility.

This Modernization project has "turned our whole world at Y-12 upside down. It has redefined how we do project execution and given us a better focus on how to build for ourselves a more flexible manufacturing capability," says Cindy Hayes, Director of Modernization.

The PPTF "provides manufacturing capability and capacity for a special material we used to have and was discontinued in FY 1989. This material has been identified as needed to support future missions," according to Mark Sollenberger, the project manager. Hayes adds that "the material produced by this project is considered 'special' because no one else other than Y-12 makes it."

As part of the Y-12 Modernization Program, the PPTF project is being driven by a manufacturing need defined in the Stockpile Life Extension Program mission. "We are building a new

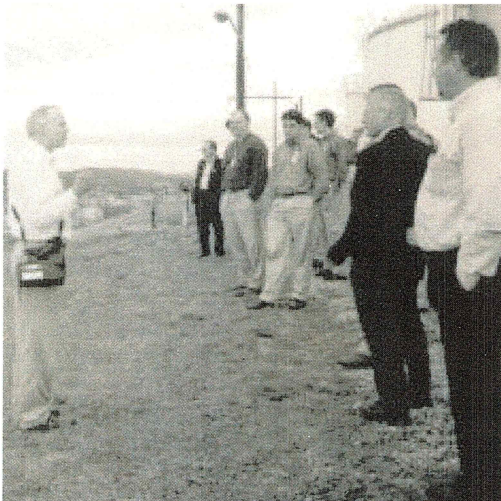
facility that replicates a historic manufacturing process but includes more controls and better Environmental, Safety and Health conditions," Sollenberger said. The old facility that last housed this process has been closed for more than 12 years, the equipment is no longer viable or functional, and the ES&H conditions preclude restarting the process in that facility.

"This authorization reflects a success which is solely attributable to the efforts of one of the finest project teams that I have had the pleasure of working with in my 25 years here in Oak Ridge," Sollenberger said.

This recent "green light" from NNSA will allow us to start the preliminary, or Title I, design. "Preliminary design will provide such basic information as facility layouts, structural analyses and design input, process equipment and controls definition, utilities needs—all integrated with confirmation of health and safety considerations. These preliminary data will permit us to acquire higher confidence level cost estimates and schedules for the balance of the project," said Sollenberger.

The next step for the PPTF is to complete and provide to NNSA the results of these preliminary design efforts in support of the authorization for Title II design. "This next design phase will encompass detailed design sufficient to secure construction services and major equipment fabrication and procurements. The completed Title II design should be of sufficient detail to hand to a contractor or fabricator for them to work from," Sollenberger said.

According to the most recent PPTF project schedule, this new manufacturing facility and its processes are targeted for operational test and checkout in 2004.



Bob Hawthorne of Infrastructure Reduction gives the Safety Summit crew a tour and overview of Y-12.

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## Y-12 plays host to Safety Summit

Y-12 recently hosted the BWXT Corporate Safety Summit, an annual meeting chaired by Allen Womack, president of BWX Technologies. Attendees included the presidents and Environmental, Safety and Health directors from each of the BWXT companies and companies with whom Y-12 has a major partnership. The locations of the summits are a mixture of NNSA, DOE and non-DOE sites. Some 25 people attended this year's summit.

The summit's focus is improving safety among our workforces, and it featured presentations from each site and an open discussion period on specific topics. One of the main topics covered this year was behavior-based safety and how it could be applied. Another topic presented and discussed was the Y-12 Automated Job Hazard Analysis, which currently is under development.

The summit also gives everyone the opportunity to share lessons learned. By learning what everyone else is doing to eliminate injuries, we learn what works and what doesn't work so well, which helps us avoid unnecessary costs and possible delays in improving our safety performance. Bill Brumley, manager of NNSA's Oak Ridge office, spoke to the group and presented his perspective of safety in NNSA and at the Y-12 Complex.