

HOMELAND SECURITY

Report details security lapses at nuclear plant

BY DUNCAN MANSFIELD
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KNOXVILLE — Sixteen foreign-born construction workers with phony immigration documents were able to enter a nuclear weapons plant in eastern Tennessee because of lax security controls, a federal report said Monday.

Controls at the Y-12 weapons plant have since been tightened and there was no evidence the workers had access to any sensitive documents, said the National Nuclear Security Administration, which oversees nuclear weapons facilities for the Department of Energy.

However, the DOE inspector general's office said in the report issued Monday that its field agents found "official use only" documents "lying unprotected in a construction trailer which was accessed by the foreign construction workers" at the plant.

"Thus, these individuals were afforded opportunities to access

“We concluded that this situation represented a potentially serious access control and security problem.”

— Department of Energy report

... (this) information," the inspector general wrote. "We concluded that this situation represented a potentially serious access control and security problem."

The report, initiated by a tip in 2004, said the workers had fake green cards that certified them to work in the United States. Their cases were turned over to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency for deportation.

The Y-12 plant, created for the top-secret Manhattan Project that developed nuclear bombs in World War II, makes parts for nuclear warheads and is the country's principal storehouse for weapons-grade uranium. The plant in Oak Ridge, about 25 miles west of Knoxville, has been criticized for losing keys to sensitive areas and purported cheating on security drills, weaknesses that officials say have been corrected.

In response to the foreign workers intrusion at the plant, visitors now must provide passports or birth certificates along with other background information.

National Nuclear Security Administration spokesman Steve Wyatt said that agency and managers for Y-12 contractor BWXT became concerned earlier this year about the potential for uncleared workers entering a construction site within the Y-12 complex, mostly involving steel and concrete workers.

He said the case was turned over to the IG after investigators confirmed that some undoc-



STAFF GRAPHIC BY BECK TOWLER

umented workers had access to the area.

The inspector general said it was particularly concerned about allowing subcontractors to self-certify the citizenship of their employees, and that the Office of Counterintelligence didn't know foreign construction workers were at the Y-12 site until it was notified by the inspector general's office.

Publication:Chattanooga Times Free Press;35

Y-12 Plant Vulnerable to Earthquake Damage

The Associated Press

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. — A seismic analysis has found that the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant is literally on shaky ground, raising questions of whether to repair or replace a key building in the aging plant to better withstand earthquakes.

A review of Building 9212, where uranium war-head parts are made, "indicated extensive seismic deficiencies with the building structure as well as facility systems and components," according to an internal memo.

Repairing the building could cost \$35 million to \$72 million and take up to five years, according to the Oct. 15 memo from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

But replacing the building, which the government hopes to do by 2013, could cost \$1 billion or more.

"It shouldn't be too surprising that the 1950s-era facilities would have deficiencies in terms of earthquake standards," said Kent Fortenberry, the safety board's technical director in Washington.

But it does raise questions about what to do immediately.

"We're not going to discuss this publicly until we discuss it with the board," said Bill Wilburn, spokesman for managing contractor BWXT.

Fortenberry refused to elaborate on the seismic weaknesses of Y-12, which were discovered during a new round of safety reviews at Y-12 and other nuclear weapons facilities.

He did say the board, an oversight group created by Congress, was monitoring the situation.

"BWXT concludes that it is not cost-beneficial to perform the seismic upgrades based on the total cost and schedule estimates and the expected remaining facility life (about 10 years)," the board's Oak Ridge staff members said in the memo to Fortenberry.

The safety board said the National Nuclear Security Administration, the Department of Energy office that manages the weapons program, was evaluating the seismic studies and the "risk implications."

Fortenberry said a compromise may be reached short of a full-fledged rehab program. The safety board will push for the "maximum safety benefit" within DOE's constraints, he said.

"If there is an unacceptable risk posed by the situation, the board will address that," Fortenberry said.

In 1989, contractor engineer Paul Nestel claimed he was fired for raising seismic concerns at the 9212 Building, saying the building's unreinforced walls would collapse during a serious earthquake.

Other seismic engineers later disputed some of Nestel's conclusions, but the concerns prompted a series of reviews and calls for more detailed studies of seismic weaknesses at Y-12 and other nuclear facilities.

Next Homeland Security

Meeting

Thursday June 30th 6 PM
@ Civil Air Patrol Complex

Local 911 Director to Attend next Meeting

Rhea County E-911 Director, Charles Riggs is scheduled to come to the next meeting to discuss Radio Procedures and call sign assignments.

The Proposed call signs under consideration are:

- 850 Jim Conner - HS Director
- 851 Tommy Mize - Resource Officer
- 852 Donnie Hutchins - Resource Officer

- 860 Bill Frazier (Alpha Team Leader)
- 861 Willie Hughes (Alpha Squad Leader)
- 862 Alpha Squad Leader
- 863 Alpha Team Member
- 864 Alpha Team Member
- etc.

- 870 Gary Roddy (Bravo Team Leader)
- 871 Bill Green (Bravo Squad Leader)
- 872 John Blount (Bravo Squad Leader)
- 873 Bravo Team Member
- 874 Bravo Team Member
- etc.

- 880 Doug McDaniel (Charlie Team Leader)
- 881 Tim Wilson (Charlie Squad Leader)
- 882 Charlie Squad Leader
- 883 Charlie Team Member
- 884 Charlie Team Member
- etc.

- 890 Bill Newman (Delta Team Leader)
- 891 David McSpadden (Delta Squad Leader)
- 892 Delta Squad Leader
- 893 Delta Team Member
- 894 Delta Team Member
- etc.

If we get to the point of going beyond "99", we can use 893A, 894A, etc.

Gov. Phil Bredesen has proclaimed the 19 through 25 June as Amateur Radio Week.

State Government Liaison (SGL) Ingrid Klose, KD4F sent me the information.

Larry Marshall WB4NCW

Tennessee Section Manager

last update: June 15, 2005

AMATEUR RADIO WEEK

Fellow Tennessee hams, I am pleased to announce that Governor Phil Bredesen has, on June 7, 2005, again signed a Proclamation declaring this year's Amateur Radio Week to be the week of June 19, 2005 through June 25, 2005 -- please note this culminates with Field Day. Text follows:

WHEREAS, amateur radio operators have been instrumental in serving The United States of America and the State of Tennessee in consistently providing behind the scenes support for our Homeland Security needs; and

WHEREAS, amateur radio provides excellent volunteer emergency communications for served agencies including: National Weather Service; Tennessee Emergency Management Agencies; Tennessee Department of Health; The American Red Cross; Central United States Earthquake Consortium and others in times of natural disasters and other emergencies; and

WHEREAS, by continuous learning and experimentation amateur radio operators have helped to forward the science of electronics and radio related communications; and

WHEREAS, by example, teaching and practical experience, including the opportunity to communicate with amateurs in space, amateur radio operators teach young people the opportunities available in radio and electronics,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of June 19 - June 25, 2005 as AMATEUR RADIO WEEK in Tennessee, and commend this observance to all our citizens.

Attention All Amateurs...

President Bush sends greetings to Field Day 2005 participants (Jun 22, 2005) --



President George W. Bush has sent greetings from the [White House](#) to everyone participating in [ARRL Field Day 2005](#). "I send greetings to those celebrating the annual Field Day for Amateur Radio, hosted by the American Radio Relay League. Across our country, radio plays a vital role in relay-

ing important information to the public and emergency service personnel in times of need," the president said. "By providing emergency communications at the federal, state, and local level, licensed Amateur Radio operators help first responders and law enforcement officials save lives and make our country safer. Your efforts help ensure the right assistance gets to the right people at the right time. I appreciate all ham operators who give their time and energy to help make our citizens more secure. Your good work reflects the spirit of America and contributes to a culture of responsibility and citizenship that strengthens our nation. Laura and I send our best wishes." An annual exercise aimed at developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio, ARRL Field Day takes place this year on Saturday and Sunday, June 25-26. Stations throughout the Americas may participate. [White House Photo by Eric Draper]

Emergency Workers Training

Rhea County Emergency Operation Center Director, Billy Cranfield, has extended an invitation to the Homeland Security Teams to attend an Annual Emergency Workers Training Class in preparation for The Watts Bar Drill (Integrated Training Drill) that is scheduled this year on September 28th.

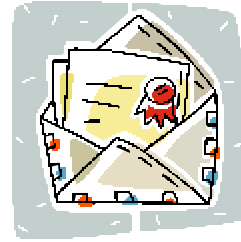
The Graded Evaluation is on November 2nd.

This year the training will be done by TEMA at the EOC on the following dates:

August 1, (Monday) 9:00 AM –12:00 PM
1:00 PM—4:00 PM
6:00 PM—9:00 PM

Please make every effort to attend one of the three scheduled classes. It is important that we stay current in our training to meet the requirements of the Watts Bar and Sequoyah plans.

A Note from the Director



We will be working on the Rhea County School System Emergency Plans and will be doing a walk through at the schools, this will be discussed at the next meeting and there will be field work for everyone in July and August.

MAKE A PLAN

You should plan in advance what you will do in an emergency. Be prepared to assess the situation, use common sense and whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and your loved ones. Think about the places where your family spends time: school, work and other places you frequent. Ask about their emergency plans. Find out how they will communicate with families during an emergency. If they do not have an emergency plan, consider helping develop one. You should plan in advance what you will do in an emergency. Be prepared to assess the situation, use common sense and whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and your loved ones. Think about the places where your family spends time: school, work and other places you frequent. Ask about their emergency plans. Find out how they will communicate with families during an emergency. If they do not have an emergency plan, consider helping develop one.

CREATE A FAMILY PLAN

You and your family may not be together when disaster strikes. Be prepared for a variety of situations.

**Wishing Everyone a
Safe and Happy
Independence Day**