



National Nuclear Security Administration
U.S. Department of Energy

NEWS

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NNSA AUTHORIZES START OF DESIGN FOR NEW URANIUM STORAGE FACILITY

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. – The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has authorized BWXT Y-12 to begin design of a new uranium storage facility at the Y-12 National Security Complex. Y-12 is responsible for the refurbishment of nuclear weapons components and serves as the nation's storehouse for enriched uranium. The Y-12 National Security Complex is operated by BWXT Y-12 for NNSA.

The new storage facility, known as the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility, will provide a long-term safe, secure storage capability for highly enriched uranium associated with national security programs at the Oak Ridge, Tennessee, facility. The facility will be located in what is now a parking lot at Y-12 near existing production facilities.

The new facility is part of Y-12's Modernization project and will allow consolidation of stocks of highly enriched uranium currently stored in several aging facilities at the complex. The current storage facilities will eventually be decommissioned, decontaminated and torn down or used for other mission activities.

Final design for the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility is expected to be completed in Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 with construction to begin in FY 2005. Construction will take approximately three years. Estimated cost of the facility is between \$200 million and \$250 million. BWXT Y-12 will award an architectural and engineering (A-E) contract for the project. A traditional design-bid-build process will be used. The majority of the design work will be performed by the A-E contractor. Other specialized design work will be performed by BWXT Y-12 engineers.

As part of the process to receive the approval to move ahead with design, BWXT Y-12 has completed a complex series of studies and analyses of the project including project execution plan, acquisition execution plan, conceptual design report, preliminary hazards analysis report, risk analysis report, environmental safety and health plan, security plan and quality plan.

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