



National Nuclear Security Administration  
U.S. Department of Energy

# NEWS

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## **NNSA APPROVES RESTART OF BUILDING 9206 AT Y-12** *Operations to Result in Deactivation of Y-12* *Chemical Processing Facility*

**OAK RIDGE, Tenn.** -- A major chemical processing facility at the Y-12 National Security Complex has been restarted in an effort to remove uranium in processing equipment -- the first step toward eventual deactivation and demolition of the building.

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) approved the startup of Building 9206 following the successful completion of an operational readiness review by NNSA officials. This marks the restart of another major nuclear facility at Y-12 that was idled in the 1994 safety stand-down.

During the deactivation, all processing and handling equipment inside Building 9206 will be purged of remaining uranium compounds. The first step is to remove the uranium, which is combustible in air. It will be recovered, stabilized in an inert atmosphere, and removed. The material will be handled in glove boxes and cast into small metal discs for safe storage at Y-12. When this step is completed, uranium from other process equipment will be removed and the facility will be permanently shut down and deactivated. At this point there is no schedule for demolition once deactivation has been completed.

A significant quantity of uranium present in Building 9206 was removed prior to restart of operations. The material has been placed in protective storage vaults at Y-12. Chemical processing activities previously performed in Building 9206 are handled through other operations in Y-12. Building 9206 was built in 1946.

The Y-12 National Security Complex is responsible for the refurbishment and dismantlement of nuclear weapons components, serving as the nation's storehouse of special nuclear materials, and providing special production support to other NNSA programs. Y-12 is operated by BWXT Y-12 for NNSA.

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