

## Lockheed Martin's Safety Record - summary

The US Department of Energy website at <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/portal/> has a powerful search engine on environmental, safety and health reports. Just enter the word "Lockheed" to access over a thousand reports on them. The following gives a taste of what you might find on Lockheed Martin's record of managing nuclear sites.

Lockheed Martin used to manage **Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant** currently subject to fierce official condemnation. It currently manages on behalf of the US Department of Energy four sites related to nuclear weapons.

**Y12 plant** – about 2 miles from Oakridge, Tennessee. Processes, machines and manufactures depleted uranium and lithium parts for use in nuclear weapons. Also stores and recycles enriched uranium weapons components amongst other things.

**Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)** – Lockheed ran this site until 20 October this year. They lost the contract to a consortium of the University of Tennessee and Battelle. Close to the Y-12 plant. Stores special nuclear material, researches and produces radioisotopes for medical and industrial use and processes large quantities of toxic and/or radioactive waste.

**Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL)** – Specialises in reactor technology, waste management and environmental technology development.

**Sandia National Laboratory** – The main complex is inside Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque and is one of three national nuclear weapons laboratories similar to Aldermaston.

The Office of Oversight of the US Department of Energy had this to say in their latest report on "*Safety Performance by Site*":

- **INEEL**  
*"...workplace safety and environmental protection performance have deteriorated at INEEL in the past 4 years..."*
- **Y-12**  
*"criticality infractions – as well as weaknesses in overall conduct of operations, authorization basis documentation, and training – led to a stand down of operations that has been in effect at Y-12 since 1994... In July 1998 DOE and Lockheed Martin Energy Systems were assessed monetary penalties totalling more than \$400,000 for violations of the Tennessee Solid Waste Disposal Act and the Hazardous Waste Management Act..."*
- **Oak Ridge**  
*"...The rate and seriousness of reportable accidents and incidents are increasing steadily at ORNL and recently exceeded the DOE average for the first time. This may indicate a deteriorating ES&H [Environment, Safety & Health] environment..."*

5 November 1999

Enriched uranium operations at Y-12 were stood down after a practice run failed to demonstrate *"that it was ready for the safe restart of enriched uranium operations..."* and because of security concerns. According to the DOE Press release *"The problems identified in the practice run... reflect lack of sufficient contractor management attention to the conduct of enriched uranium operations..."*

October 1999

In a letter dated October 6 DNFSB wrote to DOE that during a review of the status of safety analyses and safety analysis documentation that support nuclear operations at Oak Ridge between 28 June and 1 July a number of deficiencies were noted. *"To date these deficiencies have not been adequately addressed..."*

12 July 1999

*"The history of the preparation, review and approval of safety documentation for nuclear facilities at the Y-12 plant indicates a pattern of missed commitments to develop comprehensive safety bases that define controls to protect the public, the workers and the environment from undue risk..."*

18 August 1999

Preliminary Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of \$220,000 fine. *"The investigation identified numerous examples of which your administrative controls were not adequate to ensure that these emergency systems [emergency notification/communication systems] were maintained in an operable condition and would perform as required."* Another reason was their failure to *"establish and maintain an adequate process to detect and prevent quality assurance related problems."* *"DOE also evaluated the adequacy of corrective actions identified and implemented by your organization. Our evaluation concluded that your quality improvement process was not adequate to identify the causes of these quality problems and to prevent recurrence. In many of these events your past corrective actions were neither comprehensive nor timely enough to prevent recurrence. As noted in our Investigation Summary Report the procurement deficiencies existed for several years..."*

4 August 1998

Enforcement Letter issued for *"repetitive non-compliance resulted in six occurrences where radiation monitoring instruments... were found to be inoperable."*

18 November 1998

\$123,750 fine for *"ongoing and repetitive failures"* to operate the High Flux Isotope Reactor at Oak Ridge National Laboratory *"within established safety margins"* between May 1997 and January 98.

October 1997

*"Two reactor operators at the Advanced Test Reactor Critical Facility in Idaho falsified records to indicate that the required testing of reactor safety systems had been performed, when in fact it had not... The safety systems involved are relied on to automatically shutdown the reactor in an emergency."* Fined \$55,000.

October 1997

Preliminary Notice of Violation issued to Lockheed Martin Idaho Technologies Co for *"violation of nuclear safety requirements"*. On six separate occasions between Feb and April 97 Lockheed failed to follow its own work controls that assure activities are conducted safely. *"The Department noted its concern that the violations were not isolated incidents but occurred at several nuclear facilities at the Idaho site."*

September 1997

Nuclear safety rules violated that led to six workers becoming contaminated. Fined \$125,000. *"While worker exposures were relatively low, what concerns us more is that the same problems involving management of basic radiological work planning and control also caused unnecessary worker exposures... in 1996,"* said Peter N Brush, DOE Acting assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health. *"Had LMITCO properly fixed the problems identified at the time, this contamination could have been avoided."*

14 August 1996

Preliminary Notice of Violation issued against Sandia Corporation for *"failure to control access and provide necessary radiation warnings to preclude inadvertent entry of personnel into radiation areas."* Fine of \$5,000.

1995

Several workers at Oak Ridge received significant radiation exposures that were not identified by the contractors radiation testing program for two years. Additionally, one hundred test results that had previously been considered negative were positive. No civil penalty imposed *"because the contractors quickly established and implemented corrective actions once the problem was finally identified."*

27 September 1994

In a letter of this date from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board states that *"during the last four months a number of violations of Operational Safety Requirements and other safety limits have occurred at the Y-12 plant. Most recently... a substantial violation of nuclear criticality safety limits within a special nuclear material storage vault at Y-12. When staff identified this deficiency to on-site personnel... immediate corrective actions that were required... were not taken... Reviews of compliance with nuclear criticality safety limits at the Y-12 plant revealed that a wide spread level of non-compliance exists..."*