

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 7, 2023

TO: Katherine R. Herrera, Acting Technical Director
FROM: Frank Harshman and Clinton Jones, Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending July 7, 2023

Staff Activities: The resident inspectors were out of the office Monday through Wednesday. Y-12 and OREM nuclear facilities were on holiday routine Monday and Tuesday and with reduced staff the remainder of the week.

Transuranic Waste Processing Center (TWPC): UCOR filed an occurrence report due to excessive instrumentation loop calibration tolerances for exhaust filter differential pressure indicators in the process building ventilation system (PBVS). UCOR first questioned the instrument loop calibration tolerances during the performance of a systematic review of safety basis calculations that is being done as part of the contract transition (see 11/04/2022 report). Further investigation revealed that instrumentation in the field had not been calibrated using proper calibration equipment given the required tolerances. Contributing to this condition, the procedures used to calibrate the instrumentation in the field did not specify a tolerance. Upon discovery, UCOR declared the PBVS system inoperable and entered the applicable limiting condition for operation (LCO). UCOR exited the LCO after the instrumentation was recalibrated to the appropriate tolerances and the system was returned to normal operation. UCOR is maintaining the facility in standby while it conducts an extent of condition review and has issued a timely order requiring engineering approval of calibration measuring and test equipment to be used on future work orders. The resident inspectors discussed the actions being taken by UCOR with the OREM facility representative (FR) and will continue to shadow UCOR's extent of condition review and subsequent actions.