

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 16, 2010

TO: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: Wayne Andrews, Donald Owen and David Kupferer, Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending July 16, 2010

Production Procedures. Following site rep. inquiries (see the 4/2/10 site rep. report), B&W completed more than 500 Procedure Modification Requests (PMRs) to ensure that every active production procedure is marked with a use category (information only, reference use, or continuous use). B&W also cancelled about 300 'legacy' PMRs that the responsible managers deemed to be no longer applicable (e.g., if the procedure had been canceled). Even with this progress, there are about 450 PMRs that have yet to be processed. Further, it is possible that numerous near-term PMRs could be generated as a result of the action to reduce unnecessary upfront precautions and limitations and move precautions specific to procedural steps to the body of procedures (see last week's site rep. report). B&W plans to improve the efficacy of its PMR process by taking the following actions:

- replenish the procedure writer cadre by hiring seven additional procedure writers
- develop and implement categories for prioritizing PMRs site-wide
- perform a Value Stream Analysis and benchmark the Pantex procedure process

The site reps. note that Y-12 lacks a formal process for operators to provide recommendations for procedure improvements. Rather, suggestions are informally communicated to the process engineers for consideration. The site reps. consider these efforts important to ensure that Y-12's procedure support infrastructure provides timely response to the needs of operations personnel.

B53 Dismantlement. This week, B&W briefed the site reps. and staff on preparations to begin its Readiness Assessment (RA) for startup of B53 dismantlement operations (see the 3/12/10 site rep. report). During this briefing, B&W management stated that the RA would not begin until all readiness prerequisites are met and two dry runs of the operation are successfully completed. YSO is planning to observe the B&W RA. The RA may start as early as next week.

Loss of Fire Water Supply - Update. B&W has been determining corrective actions to the unexpected loss of water supply to Building 9212 safety-class and safety-significant fire suppression systems that occurred in June (see the 6/25/10 site rep. report). B&W now intends to evaluate labeling components (e.g., valves) of the Potable Water System (PWS) that supplies fire suppression systems at Y-12 and improve overall configuration management of the PWS. Last week, the site reps. and staff inquired with YSO and B&W on the need to issue an occurrence report (the event had not been externally reported). Given the compromise to safety systems, the evident PWS configuration management problems and the lessons-learned that may be of use to other sites, an occurrence report appeared warranted. This week, B&W issued an occurrence report of the event.

Transuranic Waste Processing Center. Wastren Advantage conducted a critique of the recent event where alpha contamination was discovered on a glove of an operator (see last week's site rep. report). There was some debate on whether or not the glove should be considered Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for occurrence reporting purposes. Even though the glove was required by the Radiological Work Permit, Wastren Advantage concluded that the glove was not radiological PPE because of how the gloves are procured, laundered, and dispositioned. Therefore, the event was considered a personnel contamination meeting DOE occurrence reporting criteria. Clarifying guidance on this topic by DOE may be warranted.