

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

TO: Steven Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: William Linzau and Rory Rauch, Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending January 23, 2015

Nuclear Facility Risk Reduction (NFRR) Project: This week, the NPO Manager approved CD-4 for the NFRR project, marking its official completion. The scope of the project included upgrades to utility, ventilation, and process systems that NNSA considered important to supporting the continued safe operation of Buildings 9212 and 9204-2E. NNSA approved the project baseline in October 2010 and the project completed in November 2014 at approximately \$5 million under a total project cost of \$75.79 million.

Maintenance Execution (ME): Last week, the site reps observed an oral board conducted by ME senior managers to evaluate a maintenance supervisor from Building 9204-2E. The purpose of this oral board was not to qualify the individual, but rather to evaluate the supervisor's knowledge and execution of leadership roles and responsibilities. ME senior management selected this oral board format as one of the ways to improve leadership qualities and foster continuous improvement in maintenance supervisors. The members of the board asked questions and role-played as a work crew to evaluate the individual's ability to conduct briefings, handle abnormal conditions, and manage personnel. This table-top oral board is part of a two-phase effort. In the second phase, ME senior management plans to conduct in-field observations of supervisors attempting to apply the principals discussed during the oral board. In general, the oral board was well conducted and met the stated objective.

Uranium Processing Facility (UPF): The site reps observed the kick-off of a hazard analysis (HA) meeting for the electric furnaces being designed for material recovery in UPF. A representative from NPO provided oversight of the process and the HA team leader ensured that representatives from the appropriate disciplines were present. The leader appeared to follow the process defined in the HA procedure, but progress during the meeting was slowed by confusion on which revision of the drawings should be used during this round of HA.

Job Hazard Analyses (JHAs): This week, the site rep observed a critique by CNS senior management of the three recently identified instances in which operations continued after the JHA applicable to the operation had expired (see 1/16/15 report). The purpose of the critique was to compare these instances for possible common causes and define any site-level corrective actions. During the critique, CNS management confirmed that appropriate hazard controls remained in place following the expiration of the JHAs for all of the subject operations. As a key corrective action, the CNS Senior Director of Nuclear Operations Support plans to lead a cross-organizational review of the processes that ensure all required safety documentation (e.g., JHAs, radiological work permits) is current and approved prior to the start of work.

NPO Oversight: Last week, NPO issued a report capturing the results of its Quarterly Issues Management Meeting for the first quarter of fiscal year 2015. The report covers both Pantex and Y-12 issues. The main points of concern captured in the report involve inadequacies in the CNS JHA process and Radiological Protection Program. Regarding the latter, NPO indicated that radiological events such as personnel contaminations continue to occur at rates that do not demonstrate sustained improvement. In addition, NPO elevated a previously identified emerging issue involving shortfalls in certain CNS critical skills (e.g., analytical chemists and safety basis staff) to a management concern. NPO indicated that this area warrants increased attention from CNS management and requested a specific analysis of the causes of any identified areas of concern and a remedial action plan.