DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 30, 2025

TO: Technical Director
FROM: Oak Ridge Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending May 30, 2025

Building 9212: A resident inspector (RI) attended an event investigation for a damaged fire door. On May 20, an operator received a report of water intrusion into the building due to heavy rains and wedged a roll of masking tape into the space between the door and the frame to prop the fire door open. The following day, another employee attempted to shut the door but failed to notice the roll of tape holding the door open, resulting in damage to the door and hinge. The employee reported the damage to the shift manager, and a compensatory measure was put in place for the damaged fire door.

CNS typically keeps fire doors closed within the Building 9212 material access area due to ventilation conditions and poor performance of the electromagnetic holders that normally hold the doors open. The electromagnetic holders perform the function of allowing fire doors to be held open until a fire alarm is activated. Once the alarm is activated, the system will automatically cut power to the magnets and allow the doors to close automatically. During the investigation, it was revealed that the operator who originally propped the door open had received concurrence from the shift manager to prop the door open even though no compensatory measure from Fire Protection Engineering (FPE) had been established. The event investigation did not cover any potential gaps in maintenance due to non-functional electromagnetic holders for the fire doors or the other underlying maintenance issues with the doors. The RIs are following up on surveillance criteria for the electromagnetic holders, as they have an annual surveillance requirement.

The RIs reviewed the FPE compensatory measures log and conducted a walkdown of Building 9212's material access area to assess the condition of fire doors and the implementation of the compensatory measures. The FPE log contained nine fire doors with compensatory measures. Problems with the fire doors ranged from bent hinges and broken latches to issues resulting in the doors not closing properly to perform their function. During the walkdown, the RIs observed many of these issues. In addition, the RIs identified one instance of combustible material within a posted boundary established by an FPE compensatory measure that prohibited such materials. The RIs shared their observations with the assistant operations manager who attended the walkdown and the YFO maintenance program manager.

Building 9995: Last week, CNS filed an occurrence report for degradation of a safety system in Building 9995. CNS filed the occurrence because they were unable to confirm that the building's criticality accident alarm system detectors were unaffected by a momentary sitewide power perturbation during a severe storm (see 05/23/2025 report). An RI attended the event investigation CNS held because of the occurrence report. CNS determined that the detector in question did not lose power based on the location of the failure in the power grid, the plant alarm log, personal statements, and the engineering judgment of subject matter experts. CNS rescinded the occurrence report based on the results of the investigation.