

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 27, 2025

**TO:** Technical Director  
**FROM:** Oak Ridge Resident Inspectors  
**SUBJECT:** Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending June 27, 2025

**Uranium Processing Facility (UPF):** Bechtel National, Inc. (BNI) continues to struggle with identifying recurring issues on the site and reporting occurrences. In March 2024, the Acquisition and Project Management Office (APMO) performed a UPF Occurrence Reporting and Processing System (ORPS) Implementation Review on BNI and CNS. APMO found that between February 2023 and February 2024, six of fourteen ORPS reportable events were not reported or categorized in a manner that met timeliness requirements. Recently, UPF had two lock-out/tag-out issues that resulted in the contractor filing occurrence reports. One of those issues was reported only after a recommendation by APMO. While the issues did not rise to the level of personnel injury, near miss, or equipment damage, they are indicative of a programmatic issue when it comes to occurrence reporting. For the most recent issue in which a wastewater air pump energized unexpectedly, APMO had discussions with the contractor about their decision not to report the issue. Subsequently, the contractor filed an occurrence report as a management concern. After the contractor filed the management concern, the resident inspectors (RI) inquired about any pending event investigation. BNI provided a copy of a report that was assembled only after inquiries from both APMO and the RIs. The report went into detail about taking personal statements, issuing standing order actions as compensatory measures, completing an extent of condition on all instrument air and start-up scoped drawings, and discussing how an apparent cause evaluation is set to be completed. The contractor classified this as significance level B, the second-highest level of issue, but did not perform an investigation. An investigation would enable the contractor to ascertain, sort, compile, and document pertinent facts and provide a formal setting in which to determine appropriate actions to prevent reoccurrence.

BNI reported another event as a management concern in an ORPS report on Thursday of this week due to an arc flash occurring in the second-floor switchgear of the Salvage and Accountability Building. The RIs plan to follow up on the informal investigation and subsequent report of the issue.

**Building 9215:** CNS began the follow-on Contractor Readiness Assessment (CRA) for the metal purification process, also known as electrorefining (ER), this week. CNS initially scoped the CRA to run in parallel with the Federal Readiness Assessment (FRA) until several issues were discovered during the first phase of the CRA (see 2/7/2025 report). The CRA team determined during the initial review that, with the closure of pre-start findings, the ER process had achieved an adequate state of operational readiness to commence nuclear operations in all but the Nuclear and Facility Safety functional area. The CRA team scoped the follow-on assessment to address these items. As part of the beginning of the follow-on CRA, the contractor provided a briefing on the mass tracking system and how the software accounts for uncertainties in the different material types to maintain nuclear criticality margins of safety. The CRA team attended one demonstration early in the week, during which the team had only one minor observation. CNS set the final out-brief of the follow-up CRA for 7/2/2025 assuming no significant issues arise. The FRA is tentatively set to begin 7/21/2025.