

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

TO: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director  
FROM: Wayne Andrews and David Kupferer, Site Representatives  
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending October 22, 2010

Staff Member Todd Davis visited Oak Ridge this week to augment site representative coverage.

**Transuranic Waste Processing Center (TWPC)/Drum Venting System (DVS).** During the past month, Wastren Advantage, Inc. (WAI) and the Central Characterization Project (CCP) have vented more than a dozen drums in the DVS (see the 9/10/10 report). This week, the site representatives met with TWPC personnel to discuss lessons learned during startup of the DVS. WAI identified several lessons learned including the following:

- Assessing the ability of the DVS to withstand deflagration scenarios.
- Assessing the integrity of the installed drum vents during drum movement.
- Maintaining equipment no longer supported by the manufacturer.

A common contributor to many of the lessons learned is the challenge associated with WAI and CCP being jointly responsible for safety of the operations despite being contractually independent (i.e., CCP's contract is with the Carlsbad Field Office and WAI's contract is with the Oak Ridge Office). WAI is responsible for the safety of all operations performed at TWPC (including the Documented Safety Analysis) although CCP is responsible for DVS equipment, personnel and procedures. Mr. Davis plans to share these lessons learned with personnel at Los Alamos who are preparing to startup a DVS very similar to the system at TWPC.

**Readiness Assurance.** In April, DOE Headquarters approved and issued revision D of DOE Order 425.1, *Verification of Readiness to Start Up Or Restart Nuclear Facilities*. DOE Headquarters tasked DOE sites to fully implement the requirements of the revised Order by the end of October. Both B&W and YSO have revised their procedures to be compliant with DOE Order 425.1D.

**Building 9212/Procedures.** In April 2009, B&W management directed production personnel to designate procedures with a use category (i.e., information only, reference use, or continuous use) as part of an ongoing procedure review initiative (see the 3/26/10 report). B&W's Conduct of Operations Manual was subsequently revised to state that procedural steps involving independent verification should be contained in procedures, or sections of procedures, that have been designated 'continuous use.' In response to questions posed by a YSO Facility Representative regarding how independent verification is implemented in some procedures, B&W recently issued a Standing Order that changes the procedure use category designation for all E-Wing procedures from 'reference use' to 'continuous use.'

**Building 9212/Wet Chemistry Operations.** Three weeks ago, operators in B-1 Wing were transferring solutions to storage tanks that feed primary extraction operations. During this transfer, the operators discovered that solution had been inadvertently transferred through a vent line and overflowed a safe bottle resulting in a few liters of solution spilling onto the floor. B&W is investigating the cause of this inadvertent transfer.