

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 February 3, 2012

Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). Staff members T. Cutler and D. Winters visited ORNL this week to review the current status of three DOE Environmental Management projects.

- **Building 3019/Uranium-233 Disposition.** The sixth shipment out of a total of twenty-six shipments of programmatic Zero Power Reactor (ZPR) material from Building 3019 to the Nevada Nuclear Security Site (NNSS) (see the 11/18/11, 12/9/11 and 12/23/12 reports) has been completed. No technical issues are anticipated in the future and the total ZPR inventory should be shipped by approximately the end of June. DOE-Oak Ridge Office (ORO) and Isotek are continuing near-term preparations for the direct disposition of the Consolidated Edison Uranium Solidification Project (CEUSP) canisters to NNSS. Finally, the planning continues for the processing and disposition of the remaining material following the CEUSP initiative.
- **Tank W-1A.** As previously reported (see 1/20/12 report), the tank was removed from the site on January 6, 2012 and was sent to a local vendor for size reduction. The size reduced items will be returned to ORNL for Non-Destructive Assay and subsequent shipment to NNSS. To date almost two-thirds of the soil has been shipped to NNSS and the project completion is planned by late June.
- **Transuranic Waste Processing Center (TWPC).** Following inquiry by the site representatives, ORO directed that a DOE Readiness Assessment (RA) be conducted for startup of the Cask Processing Enclosure (CPE) in addition to the previously planned contractor RA (see the 12/16/11 report). Wastren Advantage, Inc. plans to begin processing in the CPE in April.

Conduct of Operations, Lockout /Tagout (LO/TO) and Hazardous Energy Control. Since at least 2007 (see reports 10/12/07, 11/9/07, 12/14/07, 3/21/08, 5/23/08, 9/19/08, 10/3/08, 10/31/08, 1/16/09, 12/24/10) there have been recurring Y-12 issues associated with LO/TO. YSO recently completed an assessment which identified fourteen specific related events since April 2010. They found that the common thread throughout the data is that of field execution and that the LO/TO and hazardous energy control processes are adequate, if properly executed, to assure personnel safety. Some specific YSO findings include:

- Field execution of the LO/TO program is flawed and not getting better,
- Workers do not always read their work documentation and sometimes work beyond their authorized scope of work,
- Numerous attempts have been made to alert workers, train them and raise their level of awareness as to expectations and field implementation, and
- The safety department does not set a high standard for self-reporting of events.

Over this time frame B&W has put in place a number of corrective actions, which do not seem to have been effective. In response to the assessment, YSO has directed B&W to provide within two weeks the actions they plan to take to reverse this negative and persistent performance trend.