

## 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 April 13, 2012

Staff member D. Winters visited the Transuranic Waste Processing Center (TWPC) to observe WAI's Contractor Readiness Assessment for startup of the Cask Processing Enclosure.

**TWPC Readiness Assurance/Cask Processing Enclosure (CPE) Operations.** Last week, both DOE-ORO and Wastren Advantage, Inc (WAI) completed Management Self Assessments (MSAs) for the startup of the CPE (see the 12/16/11, 12/23/11 and 2/3/12 reports).

The WAI MSA team determined that the criteria for each of the core requirements had been satisfied. In spite of this, the team identified seven findings all of which involved procedure adherence and conduct of operations. Examples of the procedural adherence issues included a) not addressing personnel assignments during the pre-job brief as required by the local procedure, b) completing procedure steps out of sequence where the local procedure requires verbatim compliance, and c) not completing a section in a verbatim compliance procedure. The MSA team recommended that, as part of the resolution of the findings, TWPC management also consider the findings' collective significance. The MSA team's final report stated that the team considers the assessment criteria to have been satisfied for each of the core requirements; however, the team believes that the number of procedure adherence issues may be indicative of the need for additional management attention.

The DOE-ORO MSA determined that the WAI MSA was performed adequately, and upon development of a path forward to closure of the issues identified by the Contractor and DOE MSA teams, WAI will be ready for the Contractor and DOE Readiness Assessments (RA). The DOE team also noted the procedural adherence issues referenced in the contractor report, and agreed with the statement that additional management attention may be warranted.

This week, WAI initiated its RA. By mid-week it was apparent to the RA team that additional improvements need to be made by the contractor in the areas of procedures and Conduct of Operations. The team lead decided to a) suspend the assessment in these areas but complete it in all other areas, b) write an interim report, and c) return to the site to complete the assessment when requested to do so by line management. Subsequent to a) the WAI RA being completed, b) the WAI RA team issuing its final report that identifies pre- and post-start findings, and c) the contractor adequately addressing the findings, DOE-ORO will initiate its RA.

Approximately a year ago (see the 3/25/11 report), at the request of TWPC's general manager, B&W completed a thorough, independent assessment of conduct of operations at TWPC. At that time, the team identified several weaknesses in the area of conduct of operations including instances of procedure use practices being inconsistent with TWPC requirements.

**ORNL Tank W-1A.** All soil has been packaged and shipped to the Nevada National Security Site. Decontamination of the equipment and materials continues and most of the equipment has been packaged for disposal or released for reuse. One fork lift and excavator cannot be completely decontaminated. They will be purchased and turned over to the Hot Cells project for reuse. Demolition of the weather enclosure has yet not begun.