

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 June 22, 2012

Staff members D. Campbell, J. MacSleyne, D. Ogg, and D. Owen visited Y-12 this week to assess B&W's progress in executing its Work Planning and Control Performance Improvement Plan (see the 11/18/11 report). Staff members P. Foster and R. Kazban visited Y-12 to observe DOE's Technical Independent Project Review (TIPR) of the Uranium Processing Facility project (see the 6/1/12 report). Staff member D. Winters visited the Transuranic Waste Processing Center (TWPC) to observe DOE's Readiness Assessment (RA) for startup of the Cask Processing Enclosure (see the 6/8/12 report).

This week, the NNSA Production Office (NPO) initiated its combined oversight responsibilities of Pantex and Y-12 operations effectively superseding the Y-12 Site Office (YSO).

Uranium Processing Facility (UPF). This week, DOE performed its TIPR to assess the UPF project team's processes and performance in (a) integrating safety into the design of UPF, (b) maturing new process technologies, and (c) verifying completeness and accuracy of the design leading to 90 percent design maturity by September 2012 (see the 6/1/12 report). The review team included more than three dozen subject matter experts that were briefed on a variety of subjects (e.g., nuclear safety strategy, confinement design, fire protection systems, and technology development). The review team expects to issue its final report in July.

Also this week, B&W submitted Startup Notification Reports to NPO for approval related to startup of UPF. B&W proposed that both B&W and NNSA perform Operational Readiness Reviews to confirm operational preparedness of the base facility, supporting utility systems, and the Process Support Facility. Contrary to previous project assumptions (see the 3/23/12 report), B&W also proposed that both B&W and NNSA perform RAs to confirm operational preparedness of the following process areas: (a) casting and pickling, (b) chemical recovery, and (c) enriched uranium purification and metal production.

Work Planning and Control. In response to feedback from recent B&W and NNSA assessments (see the 5/25/12 report), B&W recently issued a revision to its Work Planning and Control Performance Improvement Plan (see the 11/18/11 report). The revised plan includes the following new actions: (a) implement a Maintenance Management Watch program analogous to production's Senior Supervisory Watch (see the 2/10/12 report), (b) implement improved Conduct of Operations training for maintenance personnel, and (c) implement an oral board qualification process for maintenance supervisors.

Transuranic Waste Processing Center/Cask Processing Enclosure (CPE) Operations. Last week, WAI declared their readiness to begin the DOE RA of CPE operations (see the 6/8/12 report). This week, DOE initiated its review. The RA team's two primary objectives were to (a) confirm the readiness of the WAI facility, equipment and personnel to perform CPE activities and (b) confirm the readiness of DOE to provide adequate oversight of CPE activities. In addition, the team's sub-objectives included evaluating the (a) adequacy of the contractor RA and DOE Management Self-Assessment (MSA), (b) adequacy of the contractor RA and the DOE MSA final reports to support a readiness conclusion, (c) satisfactory resolution by WAI of all prestart findings or a manageable open items list, and (d) adequate approved corrective action plans for post-start findings. The RA team expects to complete its assessment next week and publish a final report within a couple weeks.