

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

TO: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: William Linzau and Rory Rauch, Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending December 7, 2012

Contractor Assurance System (CAS): B&W provided NPO with the October performance report for CAS. The report documents the status of key initiatives to correct weaknesses noted during the last several months. One of the key initiatives addressed recently identified work planning and control weaknesses (see 11/9/12, 10/12/12, 10/5/12, and 9/14/12 reports). The report notes several actions taken by B&W in response to these weaknesses, including the creation of a Work-Start Confidence Checklist (see entry below), expanding the number and skill set of maintenance planners, and conducting an evaluation of the job hazard analysis development process. Another key initiative addressed problems with the lock-out/tag-out (LOTO) program. A number of long-term corrective actions for the LOTO program are discussed in the report, including enhancements to the qualification and training of Issuing Authorities. The report notes that these process improvements have reduced LOTO issues but have also reduced the LOTO completion rate, which in turn slows completion of related work.

In addition to providing the status of key initiatives, the report documents recommendations from the Feedback and Improvement Working Group (FIWG, see 9/14/12 report). The FIWG notes that there are several ongoing initiatives to address the aging infrastructure at Y-12 (e.g., facility risk reviews, the Nuclear Facility Risk Reduction project, operations plans), yet none of these initiatives have been formally integrated. Of particular concern is the potential for a lack of coordination between the new plant system health program (the expansion of which was a key recommendation from the recently completed extent-of-condition review) and existing aging infrastructure management initiatives. To address this concern, the FIWG recommended that B&W develop a site-wide aging facility management program.

Work Planning and Control: As noted in the November CAS report (see above entry), B&W plans to implement a Work-Start Confidence Checklist as one of the corrective actions in response to recently identified work planning and control weaknesses. This checklist is intended to strengthen the work authorization process by ensuring the responsible manager has completed required work planning and control actions (such as the development of a job hazard analysis) prior to allowing work to be placed on the production facility Plan of the Day. B&W piloted the Work-Start Confidence Checklist this week in Building 9215 and the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility (HEUMF). B&W plans to implement the checklist in all production facilities next month if the pilot reveals no significant issues.

Conduct of Operations: The site reps observed the weekly preventive maintenance and technical safety requirement surveillance activities for the HEUMF diesel fire pump. The diesel fire pump is one of the key support systems for the safety-significant fire suppression system. The site reps noted several positive conduct of operations performance indicators for both activities (e.g., rigorous procedural compliance) and minor issues with the work instruction for the preventive maintenance job.