

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 26, 2016

TO: Steven Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: William Linzau and Rory Rauch, Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending August 26, 2016

R. Rauch was off site this week and R. Oberreuter was at Y-12 to augment site rep coverage.

NPO Oversight: In June 2015, CNS issued a control of work improvement plan (see 6/5/15 report) to address work control problems exposed by a series of events earlier that year (see 4/17/15 report). Last month, NPO reviewed the CNS corrective actions resulting from the improvement plan and found that some of the plan's actions to improve control of work were not effectively executed. The CNS improvement plan identified that imprecise verbal communications was a contributing cause in several of the events. NPO expressed concern that the plan took no action to address this issue because CNS determined that existing procedures already address verbal communications. In addition, five of the actions in the improvement plan required training for specific groups of people but none of the actions required the establishment of periodic re-training on the lessons learned from the events or inclusion of this training in the groups' qualification processes. Lastly, CNS has taken credit for the control of work improvement plan to correct several other, separate, work control issues but NPO notes that the plan does not address those issues in any manner. NPO transmitted these observations and other issues to CNS in the monthly operational awareness report that documents the results of NPO's oversight activities in July.

On a separate topic, NPO commenced a self-assessment of their performance in implementing DOE/NNSA oversight requirements. In addition to reviewing NPO's current performance against requirements, the assessment team will review the actions to address issues identified during NPO's 2015 oversight self-assessment. The ongoing self-assessment is scheduled to be completed at the end of September.

Building 9215: Last week the site reps walked down the 9212 E-Wing basement with CNS and NPO personnel to observe progress CNS has made in improving housekeeping in that area (see 8/19/16 report). This week, a member of the Board's staff shadowed a CNS and NPO walkdown of areas in Building 9215 in which CNS is making a similar effort to improve housekeeping. The NPO Associate Deputy Manager for Operations, fire protection engineer, and several facility representatives accompanied the CNS Fabrication Operations System Health Manager on a walkdown of O-Wing, M-Wing, and the M-Wing basement in Building 9215. The clean-up work in O-Wing supports future placement of a chip processing operation, which will allow consolidation of enriched uranium chips from machining operations at the point of generation and preclude the need to process chips in Building 9212. CNS has removed several waste boxes of material from these areas, including excess electrical equipment and other combustibles.

Uranium Processing Facility (UPF): The UPF project held a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of construction of the Construction Support Building (CSB). The CSB is part of a subproject that includes the installation of utilities, demolition of existing structures, and construction of a concrete batch plant that will support the construction of the main UPF building foundations and structures. The CSB will be a permanent structure that is being built instead of installing multiple temporary construction trailers normally associated with a large construction projects. After UPF construction is complete, the CSB will house personnel that will support production operations. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is managing the construction of the CSB for the NNSA.