

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 17, 2025

TO: R. T. Davis, Acting Technical Director
FROM: Clinton Jones, Resident Inspector
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending January 17, 2025

DNFSB Staff Activity: D. Montierth and P. Natividad were onsite this week to begin the Y-12 portion of a complex wide conduct of operations review. Staff members visited Building 9204-2E where they reviewed and discussed reference use procedures for disassembly and inspection activities along with continuous use procedures utilized in other disassembly processes. Staff members also observed work in multiple gloveboxes and discussed the operations with both quality engineers, external design agency employees, and CNS production staff. Additionally, staff members observed criticality accident alarm system (CAAS) technical safety requirement surveillances that covered the weekly indicator status check, a quarterly response to a radioactive test source, and a 13-month calibration requirement that involved replacing the existing CAAS detectors with newly calibrated units. The detector replacement was performed by the electricians with support of the system engineer and facility operations management. The pre-job briefing was thorough, but not integrated as well as it could have been. The electrical supervisor briefed the replacement job, concluded his briefing, and then the system engineer proceeded to brief the surveillance portion separately. These operations were performed concurrently, and the briefing would have been clearer if the briefing was performed the same way. Staff members attended a pre-job briefing for casting in Building 9212. The intent of attending this briefing was to assess how CNS integrated production lead post maintenance testing into a repair of recent maintenance on a casting furnace. The post maintenance test was for production to heat the furnace to normal operating temperatures to ensure it functioned correctly. Staff members discussed the maintenance and testing required with CNS supervisors at the close of the briefing to further understand the integration and inter-departmental hand offs that occur during this type of work package.

A staff member attended a final oral board for a shift technical advisor candidate. CNS integrated a new advisor to oversee the performance of the facility operations management oral boards based on feedback from both YFO and the DNFSB resident inspectors. The oral board members self-identified the fact that they were asking leading questions during the board and adjusted the grading appropriately. The board members appropriately designated make or break questions and followed the procedure during grading. Although the questions used during the board could have used refining to eliminate being duplicative or needing interpretation by the oral board members, the conduct of the oral board was acceptable.

Staff members attended a monthly meeting held by CNS that addressed the progress made on the site conduct of operations continuum plan. In addition to the continuum meeting, staff members attended a quarterly meeting between the resident inspector and a CNS Senior Technical Advisor to obtain status on current and upcoming contractor assurance system improvements and disciplined operations initiatives. Staff members attended an event investigation on a recent Building 9212 limiting condition for operation entry caused by insufficient heating of safety basis credited fire suppression piping. Discussions of the investigation and critique process as well as the contractor assurance system during the visit will be used to help guide the scope for the Y-12 review.