

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 11, 2025

TO: Technical Director
FROM: Oak Ridge Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending April 11, 2025

Contractor Assurance System: In August 2024, the resident inspectors (RIs) performed a review of the contractor assurance system (CAS), focusing on corrective action closure evidence due to the RIs finding issues with specific events where the closure evidence was inadequate. The RIs' review included sampling 25 occurrence reporting and processing system reportable events of high severity level and 36 events of lower severity level that occurred in Y-12 defense nuclear facilities between 2022 and 2024. As a result of the review, the RIs identified concerns with 51 actions, which appeared inconsistent with the CNS CAS requirements. In response to the review, CNS determined that 31 of the 51 actions did not comply with the CAS governing procedure. These issues varied in scope, from actions closed without closure evidence to incomplete closure evidence that did not support the required actions.

CNS performs monthly surveillance to verify that approximately 10% of the closed issues comply with the governing procedure. Based on the high percentage of issues the RIs found, this surveillance lacked depth and completeness. As a result of the RIs' review, CNS entered an issue into the CAS to address the non-compliances in September 2024. In January 2025, CNS enhanced the criteria regarding follow-on actions and briefing documentation reviewed for the monthly surveillance.

CNS recently closed the final three corrective actions that resulted from the RIs' review of CAS closure evidence. Reviewing and confirming that issue closure actions were in compliance with the governing procedure was the most impactful, and although the final action took more than six months to complete, individual items within that action's scope were completed earlier.

Qualification Board: An RI attended the final qualification board for a shift technical advisor/shift manager candidate at the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility. The questions selected for the board were appropriate, and the RI did not observe any of the past qualification board weaknesses, such as asking leading questions (see 04/12/2024, 08/09/2024, and 12/20/2024 reports). The RI observed two noteworthy practices during the board. First, the board appropriately marked specific "make or break" questions as required by the board administrative procedure; however, the board went a step further to identify specific failure criteria for answers to other questions, thereby identifying the critical knowledge aspects for those individual questions. Second, an operations manager from another nuclear facility observed the board to ensure the consistent implementation of board administration between the different facilities, which has been an issue noted by the RIs in the past (see 02/28/2025 report). The RI provided minor feedback to the board and found that the board was conducted in an adequate manner to assess the qualification of the candidate.