

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 6, 2025

TO: Technical Director
FROM: Oak Ridge Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending June 6, 2025

Board Visit: The Board, resident inspectors (RIs), and DNFSB staff members conducted site visits to the Y-12 National Security Complex, Transuranic Waste Processing Center (TWPC), and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). At Y-12, the Board met with the YFO site office leadership and CNS senior managers. CNS provided an overview of upcoming directed stockpile work, the status of electrorefining readiness activities, and the updated Building 9212 transition strategy, including the calciner project. Separately, YFO provided the Board an update on federal staffing levels. During the Y-12 visit, the Board, RIs, and staff walked down Buildings 9204-2E, 9212, 9215, the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility (HEUMF), and the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF). In Building 9204-2E, the Board, RIs, and staff walked down assembly and disassembly operations, material storage locations, and the nuclear detection and sensor testing center. In Building 9212, the walkdown included the calciner project, special processing areas, and casting operations. In Building 9215, the walkdown included machining operations, electrorefining, the direct chip melt project, and depleted uranium operations. At HEUMF, the staff conducted a general walkdown of the main processing and container storage areas, the future interface of UPF with HEUMF, the fire water riser room, and the safety-significant fire water pumps. At UPF, the Acting Chair, RIs, and staff members were provided a status update of the project followed by a walkdown of the construction site. At TWPC, the Acting Chair and staff met with UCOR executive leadership, who provided an overview of site operations, including a discussion of upcoming readiness activities, and a walkthrough of the facilities. At ORNL, the Board's staff met with Isotek Systems executive leadership, then walked down Building 3019 and Building 2026 to observe storage activities and operations in the process hot cells. Isotek staff provided an update on the U-233 Initial Processing Campaign and the path forward for the disposition of the remaining material in Building 3019 during the walkdowns.

Emergency Management: The Board, RIs, and staff observed CNS perform a full-scale emergency exercise designated as the site's annual exercise. The exercise scenario involved a simulated fire event in a nuclear facility that resulted in injuries, contaminated personnel, and a release of hazardous material. CNS categorized the event as a general emergency. Personnel from DOE headquarters, federal, state, local, and external organizations, participated in the exercise. CNS conducted a post-exercise hotwash and will produce an after-action report to identify corrective actions based on the feedback provided.

Community Outreach Event: The Board, RIs, and staff members held a community outreach event that provided the public an opportunity to learn more about the DNFSB's role as independent oversight of the DOE's defense nuclear facilities. The Board's staff provided a brief overview of the agency's impact, the agency's ongoing priorities across the DOE nuclear complex, and how the agency works with local, state, and federal partners to improve safety.