

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

TO: Steven Stokes, Acting Technical Director
FROM: William Linzau and Rory Rauch, Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending October 11, 2013

Y-12 Operations: Late last week, as a result of a lapse in appropriations for fiscal year 2014, NNSA directed B&W to develop a plan for an orderly transition of Y-12 operations to a safe and secure minimum staffing condition. B&W developed the plan last week and began executing the plan on Monday with the goal of completing the transition by October 17. The overarching objectives of the plan are to ensure resources are available for proper stewardship of the site, and equipment and systems are laid up in a manner that minimizes the time and effort required for restart. Key elements of the plan include the following:

- Sufficient resources will be maintained for the site to perform technical safety requirement (TSR) surveillances on all facility-level safety systems (i.e., fire suppression systems, criticality accident alarm systems, and the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility secondary confinement system) and those process systems that will be placed in modes to which TSR surveillances apply.
- Design activities for the Uranium Processing Facility project will continue in full.
- Nearly all Building 9212 process systems will be placed in warm standby modes already defined in plant procedures and the TSRs.
- In the Oxide Conversion Facility, hydrogen fluoride (HF) process lines and equipment will be purged and the cylinder of anhydrous HF will be removed from the cylinder enclosure and returned to the vendor.
- In Building 9204-2E, the gloveboxes will be de-inventoried of hazardous material and dry room materials will be placed into protective containers as the humidity and oxygen levels in these areas will not be maintained.
- In Building 9215, uranium chips will be collected in chip dollies. Machining equipment will be shut down and cleaned and the coolant system will be completely drained.
- All special nuclear material will be placed in a safe and secure storage condition.
- Certain operations will be authorized to continue past October 17. B&W is still working with NPO to establish which activities can continue past the deadline, but some of the proposed activities include system modifications to allow the new Stack 110 bag house in Building 9212 to be placed in service.
- B&W will be staffed to perform emergency services functions. Emergency response organization members will be considered essential personnel during an emergency event, and are expected to be available for recall to duty if needed.
- B&W has suspended all safety basis document development activities and plans to request an extension from NPO on upcoming deadlines for annual update submittals.

B&W management continues to refine the details of this plan. Key safety-related details still under consideration include the minimum required staffing of criticality safety engineers, which surveillances of criticality controls will continue to be performed, and the staffing required for timely entry into limiting conditions of operation.

NPO management has been briefed on the plan and they are conducting daily meetings with B&W management to monitor its progress. They have instructed their facility representatives to review the B&W plan and discuss the details of its implementation with their B&W counterparts. Specific emphasis was placed on looking for gaps in the plan and the actions needed to maintain safety basis requirements.