

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 22, 2022

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: Frank Harshman, Clinton Jones, and Brandon Weathers, resident inspectors
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending July 22, 2022

DNFSB Staff Activity: D. Montierth and D. Owen were in Oak Ridge to observe the DOE Federal Operational Readiness Review for the Initial Processing Campaign at Buildings 3019 and 2026 (see 6/28/19 report). Isotek's Contractor Operational Readiness Review for this activity was completed earlier this year (see 4/15/22 report). The review team was augmented by resident inspectors during some in-field activities.

CNS Management: Gene Sievers, the Y-12 site manager, became the acting CNS chief executive officer effective on Tuesday. He will also continue to serve as the Y-12 site manager for now. The CNS leadership change was a result of the retirement of the previous CNS chief executive officer, Bill Tindal.

NPO Oversight: NPO began an assessment on the effectiveness of CNS's corrective actions in response to two long-standing NPO management concerns. The two NPO management concerns were for the uranium accumulation that CNS began to discover in 2017 and an increase nuclear criticality safety non-compliances caused by personnel errors (see 7/7/17, 3/30/18, 6/7/19, and 4/29/22 reports).

DOE Assessment: The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Enterprise Assessments completed an independent assessment of fire department (FD) safety culture at the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) from March 21 to April 1, 2022. The assessment identified five areas in need of attention related to the FD cultural environment. Of these areas, the resident inspectors are following up on the corrective actions planned in response to the following issues.

- Significantly differing perceptions exist between Fire Fighters (FF) and FD management about the FD's inspection, testing, and maintenance (ITM) role for facility fire protection equipment.
- FFs with residential firefighting backgrounds shared that they do not feel comfortable with their knowledge and capability to handle some of the industrial emergency responses at Y-12.
- NPO has not performed focused oversight of FD safety culture.

Building 9215: CNS has continued to make progress on dispositioning six overloaded drums that had been stored in the facility for over a decade (see 1/28/22 report). CNS completed packing the fourth overloaded drum last week and plans to bring the contents of the remaining two drums into compliance with nuclear criticality safety loading limits by the end of fiscal year 2022.

Building 9212: CNS processed the remaining legacy briquettes this week. This culminates several years of effort to work through the inventory of briquettes that were stored in Building 9212. Briquettes have presented issues due to the briquettes expanding and forcing the container lid off and instances of spontaneous exothermic reactions (see 6/30/17, 2/26/18, 8/18/17, and 10/8/21 reports).