

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 30, 2022

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: Frank Harshman and Clinton Jones, resident inspectors
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending September 30, 2022

DNFSB Staff Activities: D. Owen, J. Flora, and the resident inspectors met with OREM and Isotek to follow up on questions DNFSB staff had on the progress to resolve issues identified during the recent Federal Operational Readiness Review and the OREM oversight plan for the eventual startup of the Initial Processing Campaign (see 07/29/2022 report).

DOE Oversight: The resident inspectors attended the outbrief for NPO's Effectiveness Review of Y-12 Production Training Corrective Actions that CNS took in response to a NPO Management Concern (see 7/12/19 report). The corrective actions were intended to provide improved training for operators and supervisors in support of effective and sustained nuclear criticality safety and conduct of operations (CONOPS) program performance. There were six criteria used to support the Performance Objective which were based on the closure criteria specified for evaluating CNS's progress towards addressing the Management Concern. The preliminary report detailed that one criterion was considered "Not Met" and that the overall Performance Objective were "Met". The criterion that was "Not Met" was a result of NPO evaluating that steps taken by CNS to resolve qualification issues was not fully implemented to justify closure of that item. Overall, the preliminary report identified one finding and three performance problems that should be evaluated and appropriately dispositioned by CNS to further improve performance in this area. The resident inspectors consider the review team's recommendation for dispositioning the identified issues through the Y-12 Issues Management processes is appropriate given the nature of the comments.

Building 9212: The resident inspectors observed the qualification walkdown for a Facility Representative (FR). This walkdown was conducted by the NPO Associate Deputy Manager for Operations (Y-12) and is the first of two walkdowns performed to assess the FR's knowledge and readiness to move on to the formal oral board. The walkdown was thorough, testing the FR on a wide range of topics including safety, process knowledge, hazards, and safety class systems.

Field Activity: The resident inspectors continued sampling CNS's CONOPS performance this week by shadowing the performance of safety related system surveillances. The resident inspectors noted that even though three facilities use the same criticality accident alarm system detection equipment and the required surveillance operability requirements are the same, the facilities all perform the surveillances differently using different personnel, procedures and supplementary appendices or other forms to document completion. However, the tracking system used to maintain the timeliness of surveillance performance is common between all facilities at the site and allows for adequate review by the facilities operations management (FOM) staff. As a follow up to previous CONOPS performance issues (see 7/8/22 report) the resident inspectors attended a FOM shift manager CONOPS review and general expectations training session. The focus of the training was to encourage the shift managers from the different facilities to engage their peers in discussion about CONOPS issues and solicit feedback for the development of a more comprehensive CONOPS training class for newly hired staff.