

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

TO: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: Wayne Andrews and David Kupferer, Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending June 8, 2012

Staff member D. Winters visited the Transuranic Waste Processing Center (TWPC) to observe the continuation of WAI's Contractor Readiness Assessment for the startup of the Cask Processing Enclosure.

TWPC Readiness Assurance/Cask Processing Enclosure (CPE) Operations. In order to improve its operational productivity and efficiency to process cask waste at TWPC, WAI recently constructed a Cask Processing Enclosure to provide additional capacity (see the 12/16/11, 12/23/11, and 4/13/12 reports). Following site representative inquiry, DOE-ORO determined that a DOE Readiness Assessment (RA) was required for the startup of the CPE in addition to the contractor RA. The contractor RA was initially started the week of April 9, 2012. The team lead decided to suspend the assessment in the areas of procedures and conduct of operations, but completed the review of other areas identified in the Plan of Action. In its interim report, the team identified five pre-start findings and two post-start findings. All have either been closed or are in the process of being addressed.

This week the contractor RA resumed. The team observed evolutions as well as an emergency management drill and worker's response to off-normal conditions. Four additional prestart findings were identified during the assessment. Despite the additional pre-start findings, the project's upgrades in the areas of procedures and conduct of operations significantly improved performance in these areas. Subsequently, the contractor RA team recommended that the project submit notification of readiness to proceed with the DOE RA upon closure of the identified prestart findings and approval of corrective action plans for the poststart findings. DOE-ORO intends to begin its RA the week of June 18, 2012.

Work Planning and Execution. As previously reported (see the 5/25/12 report), B&W recently suspended all LO/TO activities associated with hazardous energy work. B&W is still developing its long-term corrective actions to establish more formal management controls within the LO/TO process. On Monday, B&W issued three standing orders related to LO/TO processes and practices that include the following: (a) all LO/TO Issuing Authorities (IAs) must be retrained and requalified by passing a newly developed written exam (the population of qualified IAs is expected to drop from about 120 to about 20), (b) all work packages that involve LO/TO activities must be approved by a newly instituted Senior Review Board (SRB), (c) all hazardous energy isolation must be achieved by using a lockable mechanical device, (d) electrical isolation must be confirmed by verifying absence of voltage using both AC and DC scales of an approved voltage meter and, where possible, attempting to start the equipment, (e) electrical isolation must also be verified by visually confirming the electrical path from the isolation device to the point of work, (f) personnel involved in LO/TO activities cannot perform multiple roles (e.g., the subject service supervisor cannot also function as the IA), and (g) the IA shall be responsible for proper execution of the recently augmented LO/TO process (i.e., team walkdown, SRB review and work package approval, execution of the LO/TO and verification of absence of energy). B&W initiated LO/TO activities for high-priority jobs on Tuesday within the construct of the aforementioned compensatory measures. In addition, B&W has committed that senior management (including the President of B&W Y-12, the Vice President of Production, and the Vice President of Engineering, etc.) will observe every LO/TO performed for at least the next thirty days.