

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

TO: Steven Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: William Linzau and Rory Rauch, Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending February 28, 2014

Staff members D. Andersen, B. Caleca, E. Gibson, and R. Oberreuter were at Y-12 to observe the Uranium Processing Facility workshop on seismic response spectra. D. Andersen and B. Caleca also completed a structural walkdown of Building 9204-2E (see 2/14/14 report). In addition, R. Oberreuter walked down various Y-12 nuclear facilities.

Radiological Control (RADCON): Earlier this week, the NPO Facility Representative and NPO RADCON subject matter expert questioned certain RADCON practices during a walkdown of Building 9202 (Technology Development). The facility has three floors with rooms conducting various radiological activities. Each of these floors has a central station that contains all of the radiological work permits (RWPs) applicable to the activities being conducted on that floor. B&W and NPO personnel found that it is not uncommon for workers in these areas to sign the appropriate RWP in the morning and after lunch, but not each time they survey out and re-enter a room. The site procedure governing the use of RWPs directs workers to sign in on the applicable RWP before each entry to the work area unless indicated otherwise. The RWPs in question did not identify any caveats to this requirement. B&W management is evaluating the extent-of-condition for this issue and establishing corrective actions.

Contractor Assurance System (CAS): Earlier this month, B&W completed the CAS Performance Report that covers the first quarter of fiscal year 2014. The report provides progress on B&W's key initiatives and also addresses issues raised by NPO in its Quarterly Issues Management Meeting Report (QIMM, see 1/10/14 report). B&W closed the key initiative related to criticality safety requirement implementation based on progress on the plan to verify the proper implementation of existing criticality safety controls (see 4/5/13 report). In response to a concern identified in the most recent NPO QIMM, B&W's CAS Performance Report identifies a new key initiative that is intended to strengthen Y-12's RADCON program. The RADCON improvement plan will include efforts to address recent issues (see 1/17/14 and 1/24/14 reports) and enhance line management oversight in the field. In addition, B&W recently announced the appointment of a new acting director of the RADCON organization to lead this effort. The implementation plan for this key initiative is scheduled to be completed this month.

Fire Protection: In July 2013, NPO requested that B&W reevaluate all active Y-12 fire protection equivalencies that were previously approved by YSO or its predecessor, the Oak Ridge Office (see 7/12/13 report). In November, B&W provided a list of all 25 active equivalencies and exemptions and proposed a schedule for re-validation during the next few years. These validations will evaluate the basis on which the original equivalencies and exemptions were approved and determine if they remain valid. In addition, B&W provided a schedule for future periodic validations. Earlier this month, NPO approved the proposed validation schedule provided by B&W. NPO also stipulated that future fire protection equivalency and exemption requests shall include a proposed periodicity for re-validation.

Contract Award: The Government Accountability Office denied the protest filed by Nuclear Production Partners, LLC that challenged NNSA's award of the combined contract to Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC.