

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 July 18, 2014

Staff members M. Forsbacka, R. Oberreuter, and F. Sutherland were at Y-12 to review enriched uranium chemical processing modernization. The review team received an update on the site's progress in maturing the Direct Electrolytic Reduction, Electrorefining, Uranium Trichloride Synthesis, and Calcliner technologies. The review team also discussed the latest status of the projects to deploy these technologies in existing Y-12 facilities and walked down a subset of potential deployment locations in Buildings 9215 and 9204-2E.

Uranium Program Manager (UPM): Last week, the NNSA Administrator issued a memorandum that appoints a specific individual as the UPM and outlines UPM roles and responsibilities. The creation of this position addresses a recommendation in the UPF Project Peer Review report (see 5/9/14 report) to assign a senior career executive who has the authority to balance resources associated with the overarching enriched uranium mission strategy. Roles and responsibilities of the UPM include:

- creating an overarching uranium strategy;
- balancing planned budget allocations between new build, existing facilities, and program operations accounts;
- accelerating the reduction of material-at-risk within existing Y-12 facilities; and
- working with the UPF Project team in developing projects to recapitalize existing facilities and process systems planned for relocation from Building 9212.

The memorandum also requests a status report by August 31, 2014, for certain actions requiring immediate attention, including:

- develop a Program Requirements Document for the full uranium mission,
- ensure fiscal year 2016 funding includes resources to support new build as well as risk reduction and technology development activities, and
- direct the implementation of key recommendations from the Red Team report.

The memorandum indicates that “the goal remains to accomplish the uranium strategy within \$6.5 billion by 2025.” Specific details related to how the UPM will function and interface with other key stakeholders should be defined in the coming months.

NPO Oversight: This week, NPO issued its latest Quarterly Issues Management Meeting (QIMM) report. The report reflects NPO's perspective on the key initiatives identified in the last Contractor Assurance System (CAS) performance reports issued by B&W Pantex and B&W Y-12. Both outgoing contractors presented these issues to CNS during separate issues turnover meetings just prior to contract transition (see 6/27/14 report). For Y-12, the key initiatives that remain open include an effort to reduce the number of fire alarm trouble signals and fire protection compensatory measures (3/8/13 report), an effort to verify the implementation of criticality safety controls (see 4/5/13 report), and an effort to improve work control performance (see 10/18/13 report). The QIMM report also identified a new management concern associated with the inadequate investigation of significant Y-12 events. Specifically, NPO expressed the need for improvement in the preservation of abnormal event scenes, the delivery of timely and accurate information to NPO, and the recognition and integration of the full spectrum of applicable requirements. NPO cited several examples to support this concern, including the recent glove fire in Building 9212 (see 6/20/14 report). NPO expects CNS to include the actions being taken to address this concern in its first CAS performance report.