

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 18, 2016

TO: Steven Stokes, Technical Director  
FROM: William Linzau and Rory Rauch, Site Representatives  
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending March 18, 2016

Staff member R. Oberreuter was at Y-12 to augment site rep coverage. Staff member D. Shrestha met with OREM and their contractors to walk down several transuranic waste storage facilities and obtain updated information on the status of various operational safety, safety basis, and mission-related initiatives.

**Building 9204-2/Nuclear Facility Hazard Categorization (HC):** In January 2014, NPO's Assistant Manager for Nuclear Safety and Engineering sent a letter to the previous contractor requesting a review of the HC of several nuclear facilities, including Building 9204-2 (see 1/24/14 report). Since that initial correspondence, the CNS has made progress in its efforts to downgrade Building 9204-2. Recently, CNS achieved a significant milestone by completing the relocation of nuclear material from the remaining storage area in the facility and is now focused on relocating a process involving nuclear material. The process will be relocated to Building 9204-2E once the replacement equipment has been fully qualified for use. Last week, CNS sent a plan to NPO detailing the actions required to finish qualifying the new equipment in Building 9204-2E and the process to downgrade Building 9204-2. The plan forecasts that the equipment currently operating in Building 9204-2 will no longer be needed at the end of April 2017 and the building will be ready to downgrade from a HC-2 nuclear facility to a chemically hazardous facility by the end of October 2017.

**Work Planning and Control (WP&C):** The CNS Y-12 Production Support organization developed training for Production Managers and Shift Technical Advisors to improve the response to events involving bulging drums (see 4/17/15 and 8/28/15 reports). When personnel discover a bulged drum, the Shift Manager activates the Initial Container Response Team (ICRT) to evaluate the condition of the drum. During several of the events last year, personnel contacted the Plant Shift Superintendent office and requested permission to conduct emergency work, which allows expedited work control practices but does not necessarily initiate the deployment of emergency response personnel. The recent training emphasized that if the ICRT determines that a pressurized drum represents an imminent hazard (such as extensive hissing or ping), they should call 911 to mobilize the site's emergency response resources.

**Aging Infrastructure/Nuclear Facilities Electrical Modernization (NFEM):** As documented in the 2012 Facility Risk Review Follow-on Evaluation for Buildings 9204-2E and 9215 and the 2014 Continued Safe Operability Oversight Team annual report, aging electrical equipment remains one of the most significant infrastructure issues for Buildings 9204-2E and 9215. This fiscal year (FY), NNSA began funding the NFEM project to address many of these aging electrical infrastructure needs. The scope of the project includes the replacement or removal from service of several switchgear, motor control centers, bus ducts, and power/lighting panels. The project, which is expected to be funded primarily through the NNSA recapitalization program, has a rough order-of-magnitude cost of \$85 million and is scheduled for completion by the end of FY20.