

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 28, 2016

TO: Steven Stokes, Technical Director  
FROM: William Linzau and Rory Rauch, Site Representatives  
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending March 25, 2016

**Performance Excellence:** A key action in the CNS plan for achieving performance excellence involves a series of work pauses within the Y-12 Production organization (see 5/1/15, 8/21/15, and 1/22/16 reports). These sessions began two weeks ago. The site reps attended portions of these work pause sessions, which comprised several presentations and group participation activities with specific Y-12 Production work groups. The presentations focused on Y-12's role in supporting the nation's nuclear deterrent and each employee's connection to the mission. Following the day-long classroom training, each group conducted tours of other Production work areas to provide them a clear picture how their work products interface with other mission areas. The next phase in the series of work pauses involves half-day training sessions that are focused on a variety of topics, such as the flowdown of nuclear safety requirements into work instructions, how these requirements were derived, and their importance to safety and the mission.

**Building 9212:** Earlier this month, a field measurement team conducted a periodic non-destructive assay (NDA) measurement of the filters associated with Stack 110 that indicated that the filters were loading with fissile material at a faster rate than anticipated. These filters collect dust from the ventilation of the vacuum induction melt furnaces and other E-wing operations and were part of the upgrades that replaced the bag filter house in December 2013 (see 11/15/13 report). The system has backflow and internal air pulse features to remove built-up dust on the filters; however, this feature has not provided the expected reduction in filter loading since its installation. NDA measurements are conducted periodically to ensure nuclear criticality safety and security loading limits are not exceeded with the security limit being more restrictive. CNS Engineering has increased the frequency of NDA measurements to more closely monitor filter loading and has ordered replacement filters in anticipation of the need to replace the filters in a few months. In addition, CNS Engineering is working with the manufacturer to identify filters that will improve the effectiveness of the backflow feature.

**NPO Oversight:** Last week, NPO issued its Quarterly Issues Management Meeting (QIMM) report. The cover letter to the report notes several positive observations including CNS's progress on the Performance Excellence initiative and its efforts to improve Building 9995 infrastructure and equipment. Of note, NPO promulgated a new expectation requiring CNS to conduct a causal analysis, perform an extent-of-condition review, and develop a corrective action plan for NPO approval within 30 days for all newly identified Management Concerns. NPO believes this will aid in the timely closure of Management Concerns, some of which have remained open for several years.

**Building 9212/Aging Infrastructure:** This week, the Building 9212 Shift Manager evacuated portions of Building 9212 due to a concern regarding the presence of asbestos in a supply air ventilation duct. Following the evacuation, samples of the affected areas revealed levels were below the site's industrial hygiene (IH) exposure limit for asbestos. The concern was identified when workers were walking down a job to repair a hole in a duct in a low-traffic area. During this planning walkdown, insulators questioned if the insulation was asbestos and informed the shift manager. The hole in the duct occurred a year ago when a machinist's foot breached the duct while walking over it to access ventilation fans for maintenance. Radiological surveys of the involved workers were conducted but an IH survey was not performed and no fact-finding meeting was held following last year's event.