

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 24, 2023

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: Frank Harshman and Clinton Jones, Resident Inspectors
SUBJECT: Oak Ridge Activity Report for Week Ending March 24, 2023

Qualification Board: The resident inspectors observed a final qualification oral board for a shift manager candidate. Prior to the beginning of the board, the resident inspector asked the board chairman what questions were determined to be make or break questions. The board chairman replied that specific attributes were required for the candidate to pass the board overall, such as not causing a technical safety requirements violation or causing harm to personnel, but no questions or subsections of questions were designated as meeting the make or break criteria per the oral board procedure. Designating make or break questions is normally discussed by the qualification board members in the pre-board meeting. The resident inspectors would have discussed this omission with the board during the pre-board meeting, but the resident inspectors were not invited to attend the pre-board meeting. At the conclusion of the qualification board, the resident inspectors shared feedback on a recurring issue that they have observed in recent oral boards by facility operations management (FOM). The board members are different for each facility, but most board members have limited experience in administering, chairing, and participating in oral boards since there is no central FOM training with dedicated personnel in this area. This causes some members of qualification boards to ask leading questions and in some cases to restate follow-on questions that contain partial answers for the current question. In the resident inspector's opinion, the occurrences of restating answers in questions did not alter the candidates' responses where they changed their answer to a correct one, but this should not be a reoccurring situation among facility personnel participating on an oral board. Overall, the oral board was conducted satisfactorily.

Building 9212: NPO approved the Justification for Continued Operation (JCO) and Evaluation of the Safety of the Situation for the Building 9212 High Capacity Evaporator System. CNS submitted the JCO as a result of samples from the accountable steam condensate (ASC) system yielding uranium concentrations higher than the maximum concentration assumed in the calculations. These calculations are utilized to determine the required response time for credited isolation valves in the ASC system. CNS determined that this new information was a potential inadequacy in the documented safety analysis associated with the ASC isolation unit. An unreviewed safety question determination was subsequently prepared to determine the impact on the safety basis from the elevated uranium concentration. CNS declared a positive unreviewed safety question after determining that the elevated uranium concentration could increase the probability of accidents, as well as increase the probability of a failure of equipment important to safety. The JCO actions consist of an increased sampling frequency and a more restrictive response time requirement for the ASC isolation valves than currently effective in the Building 9212 safety basis. CNS will keep the JCO in place until the appropriate safety basis document changes have been approved and implemented.