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| Office of Enterprise Assessments (EA) Operational Awareness Record | | Report Number: OAR-ANL-2014-11-03 | |
| Site: Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) | | Subject: Oversight of Argonne National Laboratory and New Brunswick Laboratory | |
| Dates of Activity : | 11/03/2014 thru 11/06/2014 | Report Preparer: | William Macon |
| Activity Description/Purpose: The purpose of the Office of Enterprise Assessments (EA) site visit at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) and the Argonne Site Office (ASO) was to observe New Brunswick Laboratory (NBL) recovery project activities and other activities at ANL nuclear facilities. NBL has been in standby mode since November 2013 due to loss of key personnel and multiple safety basis issues. | | | |
| Result: <p>1. EA toured NBL and discussed issues related to its hazard category 3 (HC-3) vault room. A justification for continued operation (JCO) was approved in September 2014 for a limited shipment of certified reference materials (CRMs). An evaluation of the safety of the situation was pending approval in November 2014 for removal and disposition of plutonium solutions stored in a glovebox in the vault room. A second JCO is expected to be approved in December 2014 for additional shipments of back-ordered CRMs and other special nuclear material. A third JCO is planned for spring 2015 to de-inventory NBL to less than HC-3. NBL has also recently installed differential pressure gauges within the fire barrier of the vault room to demonstrate negative pressure ventilation under certain fire damper configurations. NBL is on track to resolve its safety basis issues and de-inventory to less than HC-3 in 2015. Resumption of normal operations, however, will also depend upon an ongoing review by a Committee of Visitors and its recommendations for the long-term mission and staffing of NBL.</p> <p>2. EA toured the Waste Management Operations Facility (WMOF) and Alpha-Gamma Hot Cell Facility (AGHCF) and discussed the status of an ongoing site-wide residual contamination characterization extent-of-condition (EOC) project. WMOF Building 306 is preparing to downgrade certain fire protection controls that were designed for the facility as a possible HC-2 facility but are not required for an HC-3 facility. The AGHCF is preparing to transition from HC-2 to HC-3 in December 2014. Approximately 140 containers of material remain to de-inventory AGHCF to less than HC-3 over the next 18 months. The EOC project started in October 2013 and is on track to finish in 2015 to fully characterize the residual contamination in 17 buildings at ANL.</p> <p>3. Based on observations and discussions during this operational awareness activity, EA discussed the following opportunity for improvement (OFI) with ASO:</p> <p>OFI-1: ASO and NBL should consider integrating NBL Building 350 into ANL's site-wide EOC project to prepare to de-inventory NBL to less than HC-3 in 2015 and for eventual deactivation/decommissioning of its plutonium wing and other areas, and/or its eventual handover back to ANL.</p> | | | |
| EA Participants | | References | |
| 1(lead). William Macon | | | |
| Were there any items for EA follow up? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | | | |
| EA Follow Up Items | | | |
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