

**Subject:** ASO News – April 1, 2011

Here are a few recent items of interest from ASO:

- **Next Phase TRU Waste Disposition** – DOE's Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO), with concurrence from the U.S. EPA, issued its Certification Letter on March 31, 2011, to ASO to allow permanent disposal of the Fuel Examination Waste (FEW) from the Argonne AGHCF at the WIPP facility. This represents the culmination of a two year, continuous, coordinated effort with participation by Argonne, ASO, SC-CH, CBFO, their contractor (CCP) and U.S. EPA. Accomplishment of this highly significant milestone, not only allows for the EM ARRA funded project to be successful, but affords risk reduction of the nuclear footprint at Argonne by permanently disposing of this legacy waste stream. Heretofore there was no known disposition path for FEW. The work of ASO/Argonne potentially opens up disposition pathways at Idaho and other DOE sites, not previously authorized, and will benefit legacy cleanup at other sites around the complex. Argonne will begin shipping the compliantly packaged FEW to the WIPP facility in the upcoming shipping campaign starting in mid April 2011 and continue shipments throughout the summer/early fall 2011.

- **Argonne Detects Radiation from Japan** – Beginning March 22, 2011, Argonne's air monitoring systems detected extremely low levels of radioiodine – 131. Argonne scientists were contacted by local network news affiliations to provide statements. The following links address these stories.

Channel 7:

<http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local/illinois&id=8044096>

Channel 2:

<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2011/03/30/report-radiation-from-japan-found-in-chicago-area/>

- **Nuclear Safety Compliance** – DOE's Safety Basis Review Teams continued their reviews for Argonne's Transportation Safety Document (TSD) and the Building 331 DSA Amendment. Both SBRTs received comments from their respective team members this week. The SER for the B331 DSA Amendment is extremely time critical, as the Lab is currently planning to commence its Management Self Assessment (MSA) on April 25, 2011. DSA implementation is required to support the spring/summer RH TRU shipping campaign to WIPP. Both SERs will require action by the Approval Authority.
- **Mid-Year Performance Evaluation of ANL** – ASO's FY2011 Mid-year Performance Evaluation of Argonne is scheduled for May 12, 2011. The Laboratory is in the process of assembling its self-assessment documentation.
- **HS-42 Program Review** – HS-42 is conducting a program review of Argonne's PAAA program during July 2011. This week, ASO staff participated in Argonne's Management Assessment in preparation for this review. ASO continues to increase its participation in Argonne led reviews and assessments as part of our own Contractor Assurance System (CAS) implementation. The HQ point-of-contact for the OE review is Barry Parks (HS-42). ASO previously coordinated this review with SC-31 last summer, when originally proposed.

- **ANL Women In Science and Technology First Friday Forum** – I spoke at the ANL Women in Science and Technology monthly forum today and discussed my job as ASO Manager, career insights, and advice concerning leadership. There were lots of questions asked during the forum, resulting in an great exchange.

If you have any questions about these or other items, please let me know.

Thanks,  
Joanna

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