

Subject: ASO News – April 20, 2012

Secretary Chu visits Argonne: On April 17, 2012, Secretary Chu hosted a meeting of the Secretary's Energy Advisory Board (SEAB) at Argonne. Prior to the SEAB meeting, Argonne provided a tour of APS to the SEAB members. ASO and the Lab Director welcomed the group and participated in the tour along with the UChicago President, Robert Zimmer, and the Mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emmanuel.

Independent Effectiveness Review of Argonne's Information Security Program: On April 9-12, 2012, HS-44 conducted a review of Argonne's Information Security Program. Team Leader, Arnold Guevara, provided Argonne and ASO leadership with an out briefing on April 12, 2012. The team's results were generally positive, noting the strength of Argonne's program. While the team encouraged the laboratory to be ever vigilant, Argonne's most recent efforts to enhance communication with the scientific employee base with regard to safeguarding sensitive and potentially classified information were noted. The team expects to provide a factual accuracy version of their report by May 20, 2012. ASO appreciated the participation of Earl Hicks (SC-31.3) during the review.

ASO Participated in Recent HSS Enforcement Workshop: ASO ESH personnel, with direct responsibility for Price Anderson (nuclear and radiological) and Part 851 (worker safety & health) programs, attended the DOE Office of Enforcement's workshop March 27-29, 2012. The workshop served to "calibrate" both DOE and Contractor personnel on current compliance issues and solutions within an environment of productive dialog. The ASO attendees took full advantage of the learning and communication opportunities.

Mid-Year PEMP: Final data collection and analysis to support ASO's mid-year evaluation of Argonne performance is underway. The Mid-Year Review is scheduled for May 24, 2012.

USI/ARR Review: ASO is currently surveying Argonne's accelerator practices related to implementation of DOE O 420.2C Safety of Accelerator Facilities (07/2011), specifically related to handling of Unreviewed Safety Issues (USI) and Accelerator Readiness Reviews (ARR). Following field work, the review report will be drafted, vetted, and then finalized.

GAO to Visit Argonne in May: The GAO is conducting a review at the request of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security. Accordingly, GAO is reviewing the security of federal facilities not protected by the Federal Protective Service (FPS). GAO is tentatively planning a visit to Argonne in May. ASO is coordinating this review with SC-CH, SC-31, and Argonne.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Assessment: The State of Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) recently completed this assessment of ANL. IEPA listed no findings. The Laboratory's base program was found to be in compliance, and three opportunities for improvement were provided.

RH-TRU Shipping Resumes at Argonne: The RH-TRU Mobile Loading Unit arrived at Argonne early last week. Three Removal Lid Canisters (RLCs) were loaded with very high activity drums of RH-TRU waste from the B331 Radioactive Waste Storage Facility (RWSF). Two RLCs were then loaded, one each, into the RH-72B Casks. The removal of these drums from the RWSF significantly lowered the HazCat contributing radiological content in the facility. The first shipment of RH-TRU this season from Argonne to WIPP occurred Friday, April 13, 2013. Shipments will continue throughout April and May.

FMC LDRD Improvement Initiative: As part of multiple improvement initiatives undertaken by the Field Management Council (FMC), Joanna Livengood, ASO Manager, has been leading a DOE team looking at opportunities to streamline the two DOE approval processes related to LDRD. John LaBarge (SC-32), Julie Herward (SC-32), Jackie York (ASO), and Jeff Day (PNSO) are part of the LDRD Improvement Initiative team. Joanna will present the team's recommendations at the upcoming Field Management Council (FMC) meeting on April 25th. This week, Joanna Livengood and Jackie York, ASO LDRD Program Manager, attended the SC LDRD Program Review held at PNNL. During the meeting, Joanna discussed the team's recommendations with the broader LDRD community.