

Subject: ASO News – August 19, 2011

- **UChicago Argonne Board of Governors (BOG) Safety Advisory Team review:** UChicago commissioned a two-person team to advise UChicago and Lab leadership on the state of the site's safety program/culture. This activity involved discussions and/or interactions with over 100 Lab employees, highlighting and offering suggestions in the areas of communication, leadership, and organizational reflections. This activity is just one in a number of actions initiated by the Contractor to respond to an increase in injuries during FY2011. ASO participated in the out-brief this morning and will look for opportunities to share results with SC HQ.
- **Radiation Protection Program (RPP) Improvements** – Argonne continues to make remarkable progress in addressing systemic weaknesses within its RPP. The Laboratory is measuring their improvements and reporting to ASO on a weekly basis. In the past month, Argonne has replaced its Radiation Safety Officer, rewritten its RP procedures, and is currently rewriting and training employees to a new set of Radiation Work Permits across the site.
- **The Advanced Protein Crystallization Facility (APCF)** – The APCF, a State of Illinois funded facility, integrated project team is in the process of completing pre-Critical Decision 2/3A actions in response to the Director's Review held July 28-29, 2011. A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for August 30, 2011 at 10:30 am; Illinois Governor Quinn (D) and US Congresswoman Biggert (R) have been invited.
- **Energy Science Building (ESB)** – Site preparation work, for the Energy Science Building (ESB), is underway. Argonne awarded a small, Basic Ordering Agreement (BOA) contract in July, to relocate a liquid nitrogen tank and ancillary equipment. This work is now complete. On July 19, 2011, the contract for the construction of the ESB was awarded to "Clark Construction", General Contractor (GC), in the amount of \$62.8M. At the end of July, Argonne issued a Notice To Proceed (NTP) to GC, after reviewing and approving all necessary ES&H documentation. Mobilization began this week. Based on the present rate of progress, excavation work is expected to start on or before the beginning of September. This will put the project approximately two weeks ahead of schedule.
- **Argonne Leadership Computing Facility (ALCF) Annual Operations Assessment Review** – ASO is participating in ASCR's Annual Operations Assessment Review on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Dave Goodwin, Betsy Riley, and Yukiko Sekine, from ASCR (SC-21.2) are attending.
- **Audit Completed at Argonne for Waste Disposal at Nevada National Security Site (NNSS)** – ASO observed completion of the subject audit conducted August 9-10, 2011. There were no findings or Corrective Action Requirements and the ANL's waste disposal program remains approved for continued shipments. Two observations were made and Argonne and ASO will respond directly to the Nevada Site Office (NSO) for their acceptance and closure of the audit.

- **Argonne Completes Regulatory Approvals for Authorized Release of Capacitors from IPNS Transition** – Argonne and ASO were notified that the State of Texas granted regulatory approval for disposal of potentially activated non-PCB capacitors from the IPNS transition work. ASO has previously approved authorized release of this material. The Texas approval is the final regulatory approval required prior to shipment and is expected to expedite off-site disposal and reduced costs.
- **Building 200 MA Pit De-inventory Advances NFRDP Final Milestone** – Argonne finalized preparations to complete significant source material de-inventory over the next two weeks. Argonne is now ready for Los Alamos’s Off-Site Recovery Project (OSRP) staff to arrive during week of August 22<sup>nd</sup> and encapsulate dozens of retrieved sources in special form capsules, which will remove them from inventory prior to their off-site shipment.
- **FY09 Omnibus Cleanup Savings Reinvested at Argonne** – ASO approved use of approximately \$670K in Omnibus savings for additional bonus scope to be completed at B200 MA/MB. Argonne will use these funds to dispose substantial quantities of mixed and low level waste which need to be removed prior to characterization of the facility for future D&D.
- **Complex-wide TRU Program Review** – On August 16, 2011, EM-43, Office of Disposal Operations, held a Complex-wide TRU Program Review via a video conference call. ASO briefed the status of the EM ARRA-funded Next Phase TRU Waste Campaign. As of July 2011, Argonne completed 47 shipments of RH-TRU to WIPP during FY11. The Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) is shipping elsewhere in the complex during August, but will return to Argonne for a fall shipping campaign in late September. Argonne plans to make 12 to 15 additional shipments by mid-November, 2011, pending weather conditions. During the call, ASO solicited and received support from EM-43 and CBFO for contractor resources for characterization and shipping of additional RH-TRU from Argonne to WIPP during spring and summer 2012. Argonne plans, via an EM funded Buy-Back ARRA Project, to visually examine, package, and out load an additional 100 drums of RH-TRU from the AGHCF during FY12.
- **B310 D&D Project – EM ARRA-funded** – A pre-demolition walk-through of the Building 310 facility took place on August 4, 2011. Demolition commenced on August 5th, following Site Office approval, and was more than 80% done by August 11. The project, which is being funded by EM under the Recovery Act, is expected to be completed by the end of FY 2011. Demolition of this excess facility reduces potential future environmental risk; eliminates the need for building maintenance, utilities and surveillance; banks 41,434 square feet of space against future construction needs; and supports Argonne site modernization goals.
- **ANL Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT):** ASO, along with significant support from CH, has completed an analysis on PILT and reached agreement with the County for the 2010 tax year in the amount of \$56,304.42. This agreement is expected to be presented at the County Board meeting on August 23, 2011, for approval. A process for calculating future PILT payments has been developed and shared with the County.

- **Contractor Performance Evaluation and Measurement (PEMP):** The FY 2011 Third Quarter PEMP Review was conducted on August 18, 2011. ASO met with members of UChicago Argonne, LLC, and Argonne. Argonne's self assessment and ASO's evaluation of performance in Goals 4 thru 8 were discussed. During FY11 under CAS implementation, Argonne's self assessment has become significantly more self critical, and Argonne and ASO's evaluations are becoming much more aligned.
- **Workforce Restructuring:** Argonne is in the process of completing a workforce restructuring action. This process has involved a voluntary and involuntary separation program thus far totaling approximately 75 employees. The involuntary reduction notices were given to employees on August 4, 2011. Scheduled dates of employee release are staggered between August 4, 2011, and September 30, 2011. Further reductions in force are anticipated for a total workforce restructuring action of approximately 120 employees.
- **Contractor Readiness Assessment (RA) for the Alpha Gamma Hot Cell Facility (AGHCF):** Argonne is currently performing a RA to assess safety basis implementation for AGHCF. The RA Team will conclude the on-site portion of the assessment on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and provide a report by Sept. 2, 2011. The RA follows a similar approach to previous RAs conducted at the site over the past year, including a facility tour, observation of several evolutions, document reviews and interviews. This RA is also the subject an HS-45 review. Three members of HSS are observing the RA to affirm the adequacy and consistency of Independent Verification Reviews (IVRs) or similar processes at selected sites. HS-45 is also observing ASO's oversight role and reviewing qualification records for our nuclear facility reps. The HS-45 team leader notified ASO today that they will potentially extend their on-site visit until August 24, 2011.
- **Continuity Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) visit:** The DOE/NNSA Continuity Program Office provided a Continuity Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) visit for ASO on August 15-19, 2011. These visits are designed to provide program assistance related to DOE O 150.1C implementation. The DOE/NNSA team conducted an out-brief for ASO management highlighting key recommendations to strengthen the design and the readiness of our Continuity of Operations planning.