

Subject: ASO News – March 9, 2012

Czech Minister of Health and the Czech Ambassador to the U.S. to visit Argonne: A delegation, led by the Czech Minister of Health and the Czech Ambassador to the U.S., is visiting Argonne on Wednesday, March 28, 2012. Brian Stephenson, Associate Laboratory Director for Photon Sciences will serve as their host and provide an overview of Argonne. The delegation will then tour of the APS and CNM. Joanna Livengood (ASO) is scheduled to greet the delegation with the Laboratory.

Argonne Implementation of the "Leading a Safe Workforce" initiative: Argonne has set up initiative to help first-line supervisors develop the skills they need to make the most out of safety walkthroughs and conversations with their direct reports. Part of this initiative emphasizes the "observation conversation" as the starting point to maximize the value of the walkthrough process for the supervisors, the workers, and the organization. In verifying implementation of this initiative, ASO FR's continue to participate in Division walkthroughs in which the observation conversation technique was successfully used by Division Directors to identify ergonomic issues and concerns. ASO will continue to monitor progress and results of this effort.

Inspector General (IG) Interest in M&O Support in DC: ASO recently responded to inquiries from the DOE HQ-IG regarding Argonne employees working in the Washington, DC area. The IG's interest appears to be focused on learning how M&O employee term assignments are utilized in the DC area, as well as, interest in associated costs, and DOE reimbursement of costs to support the Washington DC office. Currently, ASO satisfied the IG's initial questions, and offered to assist in any further inquiry.

SC-31 Safeguard and Security Risk Assessment: SC-31, assisted by HSS SMEs, is conducting a review of Argonne's Safeguard and Security program on March 12-16, 2012. This team, comprised of six to eight reviewers, including Chris McLaughlin (SC-31.3), will provide an out-brief of its findings and recommendations at the end of the week.

HS-40 Program Review of Argonne's Systems for Protecting Classified Information: HS-40 is planning to conduct a program review of Argonne's system/procedures related to the protection of classified and sensitive information during the week of April 9. ASO's Manager met last week with the HSS Team Leader, Arnold Guevara, to discuss the scope of the review. ASO expects to receive a draft review plan for our review and comment shortly. Earl Hicks (SC-31.3) will be SC representative on the review team.

ASO/Argonne Brief SC Acquisition Executive on Energy Science Building (ESB): On February 27, 2012, the ASO Federal Project Director, Argonne Project Director, and Argonne Project Manager briefed Marc Jones (SC Acquisition Executive and SLI Program Manager) on the favorable project status and upcoming opportunities to implement project scope enhancements. The Argonne team presented detailed project status information, including performance metrics and spending profiles indicating that there will likely be contingency available in FY2013 that could be applied to deferred scope that was originally identified for ESB, thereby extending the research capability of the facility. Argonne will begin preliminary design of this deferred scope in the next few months and continue to status the SLI Program Manager as the scope is fleshed out to ensure mission and program needs are aligned.

ASO Restarts SC Effort to Prioritize Future EM scope: Last week ASO reconvened the SC working group to resume planning and development of a prioritization methodology and integrated priority list (IPL) for emerging EM scope. Near-term steps include refining scoring criteria and updating individual site prioritization spreadsheets. The working group includes representatives from SC-31, the Chicago Integrated Support Center, and the Berkeley, Brookhaven, Oak Ridge, and Stanford Site Offices.

Argonne Contacted to Host Secretary's Advisory Board Meeting: Amy Bodette (HQ contractor) contacted the Laboratory requesting Argonne space for the Secretary's Advisory Board meeting on April 17, 2012. As arrangements are confirmed, ASO will provide additional updates.

SC Contractor Assurance System (CAS) Peer Review: ASO, Argonne, and UChicago hosted the SC CAS Peer Review Team, on March 7-8, 2012. Johnny Moore (OSO) served as the Site Office Lead for the team and co-led the entire team when the Corporate Lead was unable to attend due to a family emergency. Kelli Markham (SC-31), Patrick Smith (SC-OR) and Margo Triassi (SC-32) were observers. The review team was complimentary of the amount of thought and effort that UChicago/Argonne/ASO had put into developing/implementing CAS at Argonne and the value-added of the strong partnership that had been formed. The Argonne review was the last SC site to be visited in the initial peer review process, which began in FY2010.