

# NCNR Procedure Overhaul



11/16/2022

Photo credit: Brian Renegar

# Procedures Prior to Incident

## 4.3. Rotation Check

- 4.3.1. This test is to be done prior to the final starting of the main D<sub>2</sub>O pumps for reactor startup.
- 4.3.2. Lower vessel level about 5" below the normal level.
- 4.3.3. Rig and attach the latch-check tool to the pickup tool.
- 4.3.4. Lower the tool through the maze and then align the notch in the orientating collar with the insertion slot in the index plate. Lower tool until it rests on the element head ears.
- 4.3.5. With no downward pressure, rotate tool counter-clockwise until the J slot slips over the ears.
- 4.3.6. Rotate tool counter-clockwise until it stops. Confirm proper height by checking tool collar flush with the index plate. Confirm proper orientation by checking the collar notch aligned with the correct index plate mark.
- 4.3.7. Withdraw pickup tool to its stowed position.

- Critical fuel handling procedures:

- lacked detail
- associated schematics
- applied lessons learned
- references

- Gaps in procedures were filled in by:

- Tribal Knowledge
- Experience of licensed operators

# Procedure Routing/Document Control Pre-Incident

Retention policy for  
super seeded  
procedures not  
enforced

Procedure routing was  
done by hand and  
comments/changes  
were not adequately  
captured.

Determination of  
reviewers was left  
completely up to  
authors outside of Tech  
Spec required reviews.

# February 3<sup>rd</sup> Incident Root Cause

The training and qualification program for operators was not on par with programmatic needs.

**Procedures** as written do not capture necessary steps in assuring elements are latched.

**Procedural** compliance was not enforced.

Inadequacies existed in the fidelity of latch determination equipment and tools.

There was inadequate management oversight of refueling staffing.



# CARRI Team 2 Construction

Established from the  
root cause analysis  
report.

Form, Fit, & Function

Contained members of  
Reactor  
Operation/Engineering  
& NCNR Health Physics

Experience level  
spanned 10+ years to 2  
years at the facility.  
Licensed and non-  
licensed operators.

# CARRI Team 2 Plan & Implementation



Procedure,  
Compliance,  
Adherence &  
Audit

- Sub-group 1: Procedure Compliance, Writing, Routing and Human Resource Tools
- Sub-group 2: Observation Program
- Sub-group 3: Operator Aids for evacuation of Confinement
- Sub-group 4: Confinement Re-entry Procedure Issue

# Procedure Writing, Routing, & Compliance

AR 5.0 Procedure Use  
and Adherence

Procedure Writing  
Guide

Document Routing &  
Control

Observation  
Program

Human  
Performance  
Tools

## Major References

- **INPO 12-012** – Traits of a Healthy Nuclear Safety Culture
- **INPO 11-003** - Guideline for Excellence in Procedure and Work Instruction Use and Adherence
- **PPA AP-907-005** - Procedure Writers Manual
- **ANSI z535.6-2011** - Product Safety Information in Product Manuals, Instructions and Other Collateral Material

# Human Performance Tools

Effective usage can lower the chance of human error which can lead to an increase in safety.

## One way to look at human error

- Active
- Latent

Key Tools

Pre-Job Briefs

Critical Steps

Watch Team/Crew  
Back-up



**Must be uniform throughout the facility**

**Training and proficiency must be part of your structure**

**Human Performance Tools**

# Document Routing & Control

**Tribal and  
institutional  
knowledge not  
properly cataloged  
and retained**

**Common (digital)  
location of  
procedures**

**Elimination of hand  
routing**

# Lessons Learned

- **Based on the size of our facility, Revamping every procedure has proven to be a challenge.**
- **Document management is a full-time job**
- **Capturing the history of a facility is vital to its safe operation**

# Questions?

**David Griffin, Brandy Frie, James Whipple**

*NIST Center for Neutron Research*

*100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, 20899, USA*