



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

January 4, 2024

Mr. Michael Redmon
President & Project Director
APTIM-North Wind Construction JV, LLC
11400 Parkside Drive
Suite 400
Knoxville, Tennessee 37934

WEL-2024-01

Dear Mr. Redmon:

The Office of Enterprise Assessments' Office of Enforcement has completed an evaluation into a November 9, 2022, event that resulted in a finger amputation at the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12). The event was reported by APTIM-North Wind Construction JV, LLC (ANW) into the Department of Energy's (DOE) Noncompliance Tracking System under NTS-EM-OREM-ANW-OF200 MTF-2023-0010720, dated August 24, 2023.

The injury occurred at the Y-12 Headworks excavation site while a worker was cutting lumber using a Skilsaw circular saw (model number SPT77W). This model is intended to be used with two hands, per the manufacturer's instructions. While cutting the lumber, the worker stabilized the lumber with their left hand and operated the circular saw's trigger with their right hand. While cutting, a kickback occurred, which caused the saw to move backward and contact the worker's left index finger, resulting in traumatic injury to their left hand and surgical amputation of their left index finger.

Based on this evaluation, the Office of Enforcement identified concerns with ANW's implementation of 10 C.F.R. Part 851, *Worker Safety and Health Program* requirements in the areas of management responsibilities, hazard prevention and abatement, and training. Specifically, ANW did not adequately implement work planning and control procedures, leading to the incorrect operation of the circular saw. ANW did not address the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation of the circular saw and kickback precautions in their task hazard analysis HSF-501249-1131, *Tools and Equipment*, to ensure appropriate control measures were in place. ANW did not provide adequate training to workers on the safe operation of the circular saw regarding hand placement and did not ensure the lumber was secured to a stable platform, nor did ANW ensure the lumber was inspected for defects, such as embedded nails or knots, as instructed by the manufacturer. Unsecured lumber and defects may lead to a loss of control and potential kickback of the circular saw.



The Office of Enforcement acknowledges that ANW made timely notifications to DOE's Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management (OREM) line management, promptly investigated the event, and prepared a causal analysis and corrective action plan. However, in consideration of the severe risk of injury and the lack of adequate training and work planning, the Office of Enforcement has concerns pertaining to the use of the circular saw, which was not in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

The Office of Enforcement has elected to issue this Enforcement Letter to convey concerns with the worker hand injury (amputation) event. Issuance of this letter reflects DOE's decision to not pursue further enforcement activity against ANW at this time. This letter imposes no requirements on ANW, and no response is required.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 903-7707, or your staff may contact Ms. Shannon Holman, Director, Office of Worker Safety and Health Enforcement, at (301) 903-0100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony C. Pierpoint', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Anthony C. Pierpoint
Director
Office of Enforcement
Office of Enterprise Assessments

cc: Timothy Penn, APTIM-NorthWind JV, LLC
John Mullis, OREM
Larry Perkins, OREM