



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

November 4, 2024

Dr. Richard Tighe  
President and Chief Operating Officer  
Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC  
Y-12 National Security Complex  
Post Office Box 2009  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831

WEL-2024-04

Dear Dr. Tighe:

The Office of Enforcement has completed an evaluation into a March 2, 2024, event that resulted in the amputation of a worker's fingertip, as reported into the Department of Energy's Noncompliance Tracking System under NTS-NA-NPO-CNS-Y12SITE-2024-0010876, dated March 27, 2024. Based on this evaluation, the Office of Enforcement identified concerns that warrant management attention by Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC (CNS).

On the day of the event, the worker used a circular saw to make three specified cuts on a wooden panel. During one of the cuts, the worker's left index finger made contact with the blade, resulting in the amputation. CNS later determined that the worker operated the saw with only one hand and did not secure the wooden panel to a stable surface, contrary to the manufacturer's instruction manual, which warns of serious personal injury if the instructions are not followed. Further, the manual specifies that the saw is intended to be used with two hands and that workpieces need to be secured with clamps to a stable platform.

The Office of Enforcement acknowledges that CNS made timely notifications to the National Nuclear Security Administration, Y-12 Field Office (NA-YFO), promptly investigated the event, and prepared a causal analysis and corrective action plan. Further, while the corrective action plan appears to sufficiently address safe operation of the circular saw and should be adequate in preventing recurrence of similar events, the Office of Enforcement recommends that CNS update their circular saw-related training to emphasize the importance of following manufacturer instructions, particularly with regard to cutting procedures and proper hand positioning.

The Office of Enforcement has elected to issue this Enforcement Letter to convey concerns regarding CNS's work practices and training on the use of portable circular saws. Issuance of this Enforcement Letter reflects DOE's decision to not pursue further enforcement activity against CNS at this time. In coordination with NA-YFO, the Office of Enforcement will continue to monitor CNS's efforts to maintain a safe workplace.

This letter imposes no requirements on CNS, 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 in a cursive style.

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

cc: Kathy Brack, Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC  
Mary Helen Hitson, NA-YFO-01