

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

MEMO TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Timothy Hunt and Dave Kupferer, Pantex Site Representatives
DATE: 4 January 2008
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Weekly Report

Hoist Replacement: There are approximately 95 hoists used in nuclear operations at Pantex. ASME NUM-1, *Rules for Construction of Cranes, Monorails, and Hoists*, is the design standard for hoists and cranes used in nuclear facilities. To date, B&W has installed ten NUM-1 qualified hoists, six of which were part of the 12-44 upgrade project. More than 30 other new hoists have been stored in a Pantex warehouse since February 2006. Recently, B&W issued a plan to install NUM-1 qualified hoists in 12-84 and 12-104. The plan shows ten of the new hoists being installed during fiscal year (FY) 2008 (one of which has already been installed) and 13 new hoists per year being installed during FY2009 and FY2010.

Maintenance Training: According to a B&W Pantex work instruction, training and qualification information is to be maintained in the Training Management System (TMS). The TMS being used for this purpose at Pantex is called Plateau. Training and qualification information contained in Plateau has not been kept current. This has made it difficult for supervisors to obtain reliable information regarding the qualifications of the crafts. Efforts are currently being made to update the Plateau information database.

Occurrence Reporting and Processing System (ORPS): In 2007, B&W Pantex generated 156 ORPS reports. Of these notification reports, about 25 percent were submitted late (per the requirements of DOE M 231.1-2, *Occurrence Reporting and Processing of Operations Information*). This deficiency had been previously identified during a management self-assessment conducted last year. Although the final corrective actions have not been completed, the immediately implemented corrective actions were not effective.

Nuclear Explosive Safety (NES) Staffing: B&W's NES department has experienced a relatively significant level of attrition during the past six months, including the recent departure of the section manager. Currently, there are only two personnel qualified to participate in NES study groups, which could cause NNSA difficulties in planning and scheduling NESS studies. B&W is planning to hire 3 additional NES staff. NES is generally an expert-based process, which places significant emphasis on the qualification and historical knowledge of the participating individuals.

Nuclear Safety Officer (NSO) Staffing: B&W NSOs provide conduct of operations oversight and mentor production technicians in addition to other responsibilities, such as participating in startup readiness reviews. NNSA reviews of conduct of operations (CoO) have expressed concern that the number of NSOs declined from seven in 2006 to three during 2007. B&W management has determined that the currently staffing level of four NSOs is appropriate to provide an acceptable level of CoO oversight.