

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

MEMO TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Timothy Hunt and Dave Kupferer, Pantex Site Representatives
DATE: 14 October 2005
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Weekly Report

Seismic Project: Last July, BWXT committed to submit a resource loaded seismic project plan to PXSO by October. On 30 September, BWXT fulfilled that commitment. To date, BWXT has not performed the analysis necessary to determine whether the existing nuclear facilities are compliant with the seismic requirements identified in the approved, but unimplemented, safety basis documents. Therefore, the submitted plan contains a series of Stage Gates, or decision points, that will be used to determine the path forward after additional analysis is completed. Part of the overall strategy of the Seismic Project is to statistically analyze several anchor bolt studies, both existing and planned, and develop a qualitative basis for concluding that the facility components are acceptable for continued operation. The Seismic Project Team is confident that the facility walls, roofs, and floors meet all the functional requirements contained in the safety basis documents.

W62 Dismantlement: The W62 became a dismantlement program at the beginning of fiscal year 2006. A couple of units are currently being dismantled using the approved disassembly and inspection (D&I) process, after which the program will be suspended until dismantlement procedures are verified and the process is validated. Pantex continues to work with the laboratories to get the appropriate documentation defining the dismantlement requirements.

Lightning Detection and Warning System: On 6 September, two monitors, which are located in the operations center and display the operability of several lightning detection sensors, unexpectedly lost power. The operations center immediately entered the applicable Limiting Conditions for Operation (LCO) and issued lightning warnings. Power was restored to the monitors shortly thereafter, but the operations center did not exit the LCO. The following day, the operations center suspended the lightning warnings despite the LCO having never been exited. This event could lead BWXT to reevaluate how system operability is tracked in conjunction with entering and exiting LCOs.

PXSO Facility Representative (FR) Activities: For fiscal year (FY) 2005, the PXSO FR staff, among other duties, attended 66 critiques and 84 stand up meetings, observed 95 nuclear explosive/explosive or maintenance activities, supported five NNSA readiness assessments, and validated 33 new Technical Safety Requirement controls in support of the Integrated Implementation Plan. The Facility Representative Program Performance Indicators Quarterly Report (April - June 2005) from the Office of Departmental Representative shows Pantex FRs spent less time in the field (29 percent) than any NNSA or Environmental Management site.

BWXT Line Management: BWXT has recently assigned seven new personnel as candidates to be Production Section Managers (PSM), the first line supervisory position. This constitutes an approximate 25 percent turnover in the PSM staff. As part of the conduct of operations continuous improvement program, the BWXT Manufacturing Division is trying to fill management positions with individuals that more closely align with their business model. Newly developed PSM pre-board reviews are scheduled to start later this month, with more formal and rigorous oral boards leading to final qualification expected to begin in November.