

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 29, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: W. White, Pantex Site Representative
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending August 29, 2003

DNFSB Activity Summary: W. White was on site all week. J. Deplitch was on site Monday through Thursday to attend the nuclear explosive safety study for W88 accelerated bay tooling.

W88 Accelerated Bay Tooling: NNSA conducted its nuclear explosive safety study this week for the new seamless safety tooling for W88 bay operations. The scope of the study was limited to operations affected by the new tooling. The study group identified 3 pre-start findings (each with corrective actions endorsed by the study group), 3 post-start findings, and 3 deliberation topics.

Although there were no significant nuclear explosive safety issues identified with the W88 seamless safety tooling, some of the findings and discussion topics indicated potential concerns with various Pantex Plant programs. For example, a vacuum fixture used tubing other than a vacuum rated hose and the vacuum gauge may not indicate vacuum at the location required (tooling and quality inspection programs). Also, a piece of equipment was not added to the Master Equipment List (MEL) as required, had no documented evaluation test, was not tested in accordance with the equipment drawing, and had an inappropriate test indicated (MEL program, etc.).

The new tooling eliminates most crane hoists in bay operations. The exceptions are one hoist to replace a protective sleeve, if required, and the hoists of the completely assembled unit into and out of containers. Under certain accident scenarios, it is possible for the new tooling to introduce compression forces to the unit that do not exist for current operations. There has been no weapon response identified as a result of these forces, however. [II.A]

Implementation of Safety Analysis Reports: PXSO approved the BWXT *Integrated Implementation Plan for Technical Safety Requirements, Revision 1*, on Thursday. The implementation plan covers the new controls identified as part of the recently completed effort to develop safety bases compliant with 10 CFR 830 for nuclear facilities at the Pantex Plant. Included in the plan is the schedule for implementing transportation controls, a deliverable to the Board under Recommendation 98-2, *Safety Management at the Pantex Plant*.

There were 232 controls identified in the new safety basis modules, 22 of which have already been implemented. Implementation of the remaining 210 controls is divided into six groups. The implementation of the controls in each group will be verified through a line management readiness verification, a contractor readiness assessment, and, potentially, an NNSA readiness assessment.

The current schedule has the first set of 20 facility controls implemented and effective by October 2003. 150 of the 210 facility controls are scheduled to be implemented by the end of FY04, with the remainder to be implemented by February 2005. Development and implementation of weapon-specific safety bases and controls will be completed on the schedule established for seamless safety projects in the *Integrated Weapon Activity Plan*.

Seismic-related tasks and the implementation of planned improvements identified in the safety basis modules are not included in the implementation plan. Separate implementation plans will be developed for these items. [II.A]