DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 28, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: W. White, Pantex Site Representative
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending November 28, 2003

DNFSB Activity Summary: W. White was on site Monday through Wednesday. The Pantex Plant was closed on Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Transportation Program: As discussed in last week's report, there have been a number of recent occurrences impacting the transportation program that involve a variety of causes, including failure to adhere to written procedures, inadequate flow down of controls, vulnerabilities in the Move Right System software, and errors in the database used by the Move Right System. BWXT and PXSO have not yet, however, reached a conclusion that the administrative control program for transportation in the technical safety requirements has broken down.

BWXT has implemented a number of short-term and long-term corrective actions to improve the transportation program, however. These were communicated formally to PXSO late last week. The following are a few of the actions taken:

•   BWX Technologies in Lynchburg will conduct an external assessment of the material control process at the Pantex Plant. This assessment is scheduled for completion in January 2004.

•   Honeywell will provide an external assessment of the software quality assurance for the Move Right System. This assessment is scheduled for completion in February 2004.

•   A failure modes and effects analysis will be completed for the Move Right System. This analysis should be complete by next week.

•   The process for making changes to data used by the Move Right System will be formalized. This effort should be completed in early December 2003.

The following immediate compensatory actions have already been taken:

•   A standing order was issued requiring the operations center to announce the opening and closing of the time window for moving explosives.

•   Material handlers are now required to call the operations center prior to moving material to verify window settings relative to the moves being made.

•   All changes to part configurations in the Move Right System must be authorized by the Move Right System owner or administrator.

Several of these actions will be formalized through authorization basis changes that are currently being developed. [II, W4]