

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 2, 2004

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** W. White, Pantex Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending January 2, 2004

**DNFSB Activity Summary:** The Pantex Plant was closed all week for the Christmas Holiday. W. White was out of the office on Monday and Thursday and was on site for the remainder of the week.

**High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) Filters:** On Wednesday, PXSO responded to a recent BWXT letter on HEPA filters at the Pantex Plant. PXSO concurred with the BWXT plan to upgrade its HEPA filter installations in the emergency operations center and two other facilities. The ventilation systems in these facilities will be repaired to ensure leak tightness, and the HEPA filters used in the facilities will be tested at DOE's Filter Test Facility.

PXSO approved the plan based on the assumption that funds could be identified to support the project. BWXT was tasked to submit a project work authorization request to PXSO following identification of available funding and to identify any impacts to other activities from making the funding available during this fiscal year.

In its letter, PXSO also noted the testing of these filters is a commitment made by the Secretary of Energy to the Board in April 2001. In November 2003, the Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs requested that NNSA sites prepare a formal response documenting "those actions taken to formally implement all applicable HEPA filter testing commitments . . ." The PXSO letter requests that BWXT provide this information for the Pantex Plant no later than January 9, 2004, as requested by the Deputy Administrator. [I, NA]

**W78 Seamless Safety Process:** BWXT concluded its contractor readiness assessment for startup of the new W78 seamless safety process this week. Providing BWXT addresses the pre-start findings from its contractor readiness assessment by early next week, NNSA intends to start its readiness assessment of the new process on Wednesday, January 7. The NNSA nuclear explosive safety study will also reconvene next week to continue deliberations on issues raised during the study in December.

Startup of the new W78 seamless safety process is expected by early February 2004. Development of the seamless safety tooling for W78 operations is a deliverable to the Board under Recommendation 98-2, *Safety Management at the Pantex Plant*. [I, NA]