

# DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 8, 2002

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** W. White, Pantex Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending November 8, 2002

**DNFSB Activity Summary:** W. White was in training in Baltimore all week.

**Paint Bay:** On October 25, OASO approved the *Building 12-104A Paint Bay Safety Analysis Report (SAR)*. The 12-104A paint bay facility will replace the existing facility for painting nuclear explosives which has not been used for nuclear explosive operations in several years. The OASO *Safety Evaluation Report (SER)* contained four pre-start conditions of approval and twenty-four post-start conditions of approval. The following pre-start conditions of approval involved activities not adequately analyzed in the SAR and controls that were not adequately captured in the *Technical Safety Requirements for Pantex Facilities (TSRs)*:

- Given the absence of supporting analysis, BWXT must remove abrasive blast booth operations from the scope of the paint bay analysis.
- BWXT must revise the administrative control program for load planning to capture the implementation of procedures and training governing hoisting operations.
- BWXT must also revise the administrative control for load path verification to capture the implementation of procedures and training governing hoisting operations. BWXT must also identify the failure to verify the proper connection of load path components as a violation of technical safety requirements.
- The appropriate sections of the administrative control program for explosive safety must be made applicable to the paint bay.

The twenty-four post-start conditions of approval covered a range of topics. OASO requested that BWXT review the post-start conditions of approval and provide any comments within sixty days. The current schedule for starting up the paint bay has the NNSA nuclear explosive safety study and operational readiness review beginning in February of 2003. [II.A]

**B61-7 Rebuild Process.** BWXT began its readiness assessment last week for resumption of B61 rebuild operations. On October 31, the site representative observed the rebuild of the center case assembly as demonstrated to the BWXT readiness assessment team. Conduct of operations was satisfactory. Production technicians executed the reader-worker process in a proficient and thorough manner. The primary difficulty observed during the assessment was the number of minor procedural errors that required correction. The errors were minor, though, and the number of errors was less than seen during observations of readiness assessments for previous weapon program start up activities. [II.A]