

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 14, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director
FROM: T. Dwyer and H. Waugh, Pantex Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending January 14, 2000

DNFSB Activity Summary: T. Dwyer was on site all week. H. Waugh was on leave all week. W. White was on site Monday-Tuesday observing the Lightning JCO RA. D. Burnfield was on site Tuesday-Friday observing the W62 D&I Program first production unit.

W62 D&I Program: While the 1st unit D&I proceeded, M&H began mechanical disassembly operations on another W62 D&I unit this week, operating in parallel since different activities on each unit are scheduled to be conducted in different facilities. An M&H conduct-of-operations mentor and a team of AAO Facility Representatives and Production Operations Team staff continued to oversee these activities. Of note, M&H mentor activities included providing feedback to Design Agency personnel to improve their understanding of conduct of operations. Based on Board's staff observations, the W62 mechanical disassembly NEOPs are averaging ~1 written error every 6 pages [so far not safety related]. While this represents a major improvement over earlier NEOP revisions, it is still not a satisfactory situation. Further, during radiography operations, over a dozen errors were identified in the NEOP in the 1st several pages, ultimately resulting in work being halted due to inability to perform the NEOP as written. Along the way, use of this NEOP caused apparent confusion on the part of the PTs, and the use of tooling in a [potentially] unapproved configuration. It is important to note that none of the contractor or DOE readiness reviews or the NESS required that this particular NEOP be demonstrated.^[II.A]

Lightning Issues: On Thursday, AAO completed a limited scope Readiness Assessment (RA) on PX-JCO-99-002, *Evaluation of Lightning Hazards and Justification for Continued Operation (JCO) of Nuclear Explosive Operations*. The RA Team identified 1 pre-start finding, for which an engineering fix was completed before the team reported out, and 9 post-start findings, while concluding that lightning controls contained within the JCO are adequate until a BIO can be implemented by April, 2000. The RA Team also made 8 observations, 3 of which were cited as noteworthy strengths. Overall, the AAO RA Team conducted a thorough review, and provided a significant number of recommendations that will improve the site lightning protection program. M&H expects to complete development of the requisite corrective action plans before the existing lightning protection controls documents expire next Tuesday. The lightning JCO will then be made effective starting Wednesday [January 19th, 0001 CST].^[II.A]

W87 Armed MSAD Operations: M&H has completed the limited scope contractor RA on the W87 Armed MSAD Operations. The final report identifies 3 pre-start and 2 post-start findings. Interestingly, all 3 pre-start findings are related to the interface between W87 controls and lightning JCO controls. Both post-start findings are related to deficiencies in the *W87 Pantex Activity Controls Manual (PACMan) for MSAD Arming Operations*, which serves to identify links between control source documents and floor level implementation documents. The M&H Readiness to Proceed memorandum was not submitted until midday today, due to delays in closing the pre-start findings and completing the requisite corrective action plans for the post-start findings. Therefore, the AAO W87 Armed MSAD RA did not start until this afternoon.^[II.A]

Contractor Changes: M&H has announced that, effective Monday, Dr. W. Weinreich will accept a position as Senior Vice President of Day Zimmermann M&H. He will be relieved as General Manager by Dr. Benjamin Pelligrini, former President/CEO of Day & Zimmermann LLC. Dr. Weinreich's immediate responsibilities will shift to spearheading the Day and Zimmermann M&H effort to win the Pantex Plant contract recompetition.^[II.B]