

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 21, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director

FROM: T. Dwyer, H. Waugh, and W. White, Pantex Site Representatives

SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending July 21, 2000

DNFSB Activity Summary: T. Dwyer and H. Waugh were on site all week. W. White was at headquarters Monday-Wednesday, and on leave Thursday-Friday.

B61 Mod 10 Project: The B61 Mod 10 Project experienced some difficulty satisfying necessary conditions of operation under the constraints levied by DP-20 -- especially the requirement to perform the operation after 5 p.m. The operation was postponed from its scheduled beginning at midnight on Monday, July 17th [Tuesday graves shift] due to lightning warnings. On Wednesday graves shift, the operation was completed; D&I has now begun.^[II.A]

Recommendation 99-1 Issues: Adequate funding for Secretary of Energy commitments associated with Recommendation 99-1 remains at issue. The latest proposed decrement list sent from AAO to DOE-AL, allocating the \$7.5M supplemental appropriation assigned to Pantex, leaves the 2nd AL-R8 Sealed Insert (SI) Repackaging Line operating funds, and the procurement of sufficient AL-R8 SIs to support that line, unfunded. Funds currently allocated to AL-R8 SI procurement will only bring the total number of containers available in FY '01 to 1200. Funding adequate to support the Secretary's commitment to repackage at a rate of 200/month will depend on the FY '01 budget -- drafts seen to date have not painted an encouraging picture.^[II.A]

Lightning Issues: M&H is working to close the pre-start findings from the contractor Readiness Assessment (RA) for the lightning protection BIO module. However, they have not yet issued a declaration of readiness -- until they do, the DOE RA will not begin.^[II.A]

W76 D&I Program: Ms. C. Longenbaugh has recused herself as Team Leader for the DOE-AL RA for the W76 D&I Program. It has been reported that Mr. S. Erhart will take her place. DOE has also decided to hold next week's Milestone 3 meeting as planned, but defer issuing the declaration of readiness until after briefing the Board on existing CSA issues.^[II.A]

Generic Weapons Program Changes: AAO has developed the revised SER, approving the latest W76 HAR and ABCD, in preparation for next week's Milestone 3 meeting. Interestingly, the DOE-AL W76 Project Team member chose this week to inform the AAO Manager that the Project Team has "pre-start findings" against the HAR that require corrective action prior to Milestone 3. It is not clear what standing these Project Team "findings" have against the DOE-approved HAR and ABCD, or what mechanism will be used to institute any changes to these DOE-approved documents in time to be ready for Milestone 3. This data point appears related to recently reported efforts [for example, as discussed at last week's Standing Management Team meeting] to remove M&H Project Managers from leadership of the weapons program project teams and return the leadership role to DOE-AL WPD. Both the AAO Manager and M&H Management have voiced objections to this proposed change.^[II.A]

Fire Protection Issues: M&H has begun working on individual facility fire protection panels under the ultraviolet (UV) Upgrade Project. This week, cell 12-85 was taken out of service for the UV Upgrade Project work. Upon completion of the panel work, it is possible to switch the deluge system over to automatic UV actuation, although the system will not be placed in that mode until M&H/AAO work out the details of a phased initiation for these individual facility TSR changes. This will be a key item with regard to potential W76 facilities.^[II.A]