

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 26, 1999

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

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

**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending February 26, 1999

**DNFSB Activity Summary:** H. Waugh and T. Dwyer were on site all week. W. White and A. Gwal were on site Tuesday and Wednesday discussing lightning protection issues.

**W56 Dismantlement Program:** Work on the 1<sup>st</sup> unit of the W56 Dismantlement run has proceeded slowly due to difficulties of the type that typically plague an initial start-up process. At present, the program is halted while Design Agency and M&H engineering personnel consider how to break loose a [potentially galled] threaded joint that connects the W56 primary to the secondary. Thus far, the joint has resisted all efforts to uncouple it.

**Lightning Protection Issues:** Board staff members were on site to review lightning protection issues at Pantex this week. During a tour of Zone 12 facilities, staff members questioned whether weighing operations being conducted in conjunction with dynamic balancing in Building 12-60, Bay 2 were in compliance with the 12-inch electrical isolation (standoff) required in the BIO [see Occurrence Report ALO-AO-MHSM-1999-0016]. After lengthy discussions, M&H halted the weighing operations until the BIO could be revised to clarify the lightning protection controls, as agreed upon by DOE, M&H and SNL personnel. The revision was approved Friday.

A follow-up review of the lightning warning and detection system was also conducted. Several of the issues raised during past staff reviews (e.g., use of additional detectors, compliance with vendor installation requirements, and evaluation of different failure modes) have been addressed. Remaining issues, such as incorporation of lightning warning requirements into TSR level controls and UPS upgrades, are still to be addressed. Of note, an extensive review of all Lightning Protection Project Team activities regarding nuclear explosive operations at Pantex revealed that little progress has been made on key issues since June 1998. TSR development also remains problematic -- a first draft of the TSR level requirements was to be delivered by the end of January, but latest schedules indicate April 1999 delivery is optimistic.

**W87 Life Extension Program (LEP):** The W87 LEP Engineering Evaluation (EE) essentially concluded Tuesday when unit #1 was accepted by DOE. Unit #2 remains on hold pending resolution of the Building 12-60 BIO issue discussed above. The W87 safety basis remains incomplete, however. As of today, DOE-AL WPD has not approved the W87 HAR/ABCD. NEOP revisions to incorporate the [proposed] new LCOs in the draft HAR/ABCD were reportedly completed on Wednesday. Next week will be used to conduct training of Program personnel on the new procedures. It is currently anticipated that the M&H Readiness Assessment (RA) will commence the following week, probably on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The M&H RA will be conducted on unit #3; the DOE RA will then follow, using unit #4.