

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 7, 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 May 7, 1999

DNFSB Activity Summary: H. Waugh and T. Dwyer were on site all week. F. Bamdad, D. Burnfield, and M. Helfrich were on site Wednesday-Thursday for W62 Program discussions.

W56 Dismantlement Program: Dismantlement of the next unit began on Wednesday. A NEEP [ED99-332] is now in place to halt the dismantlement process at a point just before torque would be applied to the troublesome primary-to-secondary joint. Instead, dismantlement is discontinued and the unit is buttoned up and set aside for storage. M&H intends to continue these partial dismantlements in order to gather industrial hygiene data, with an eye toward relaxing the current conservative personal protective equipment specifications. In the meantime, M&H, LLNL, and SNL visited Y-12 this week to further evaluate safety basis considerations and mechanical/metallurgical aspects of the problem.

W62 D&I Program: In support of Recommendation 98-2, Board staff met with DOE and M&H personnel to discuss the preparations for restarting the W62 D&I Program, including the status of the draft Hazards Analysis Report (HAR) and its supporting documentation. Issues that were identified included: 1] the lack of integration of the various hazards analyses (e.g., the HAR, the modifications being driven by the BIO Upgrade Program, the W62 Fire Hazards Analysis); 2] the lack of configuration management with regard to the flowdown of controls to implementing (floor level) documents; 3] the ineffectiveness of the controls for fire suppression; and 4] the apparent lack of incorporation of Failure Modes and Effects Analyses into tooling design. The first two issues were also identified as part of a previous staff review. With regard to the 3rd issue, it should be noted that late Thursday, AAO and M&H reached an agreement-in-principle to reconnect the ultraviolet fire detectors to the deluge systems, probably as part of a baseline change request for the ongoing fire systems upgrade contract.

B53 End Cap Assemblies: Monday, DOE-AL delivered a letter approving the transportation of both B53 End Cap Assemblies to Zone 4 for storage, under the existing *Nuclear Explosives Safety (NES) Study for the B53 Mechanical Disassembly Operations* [plus the *General Use Handling and Transportation Equipment Master Study* and the *Operations and Staging Facilities Master Study*]. DOE-AL WSD/NESP reviewed the proposed configuration and operations under the NES Change Evaluation Process and concluded that they were a minor change with no significant adverse NES consequences. Friday, M&H completed the move.

DOE Personnel Changes: S. Goodrum has been selected to be the DOE-AL Assistant Manager, Office of National Defense Programs (ONDP), effective mid-August. Until then, M. Baca will serve as acting ONDP, and D. Monette will act for M. Baca as Director, Weapons Surety Division (WSD). The position of AAO Manager will be posted for competitive selection [replacement to be named prior to Mr. Goodrum's departure]. P. O'Guin is currently serving as acting Director, Weapons Program Division (WPD) [vacancy created by R. Glass' selection as DOE-AL Manager]. The WPD position is posted, open for all SES (closing date of June 15th).