

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 13, 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 August 13, 1999

DNFSB Activity Summary: H. Waugh was on site all week. T. Dwyer was on military leave all week.

W56 Dismantlement Program: On Monday, M&H succeeded in completing disassembly of the W56 primary that gave them problems last week and thus achieved First Dismantlement Unit (FDU). Following packaging and disposition of material from the 1st unit, operations began on the 2nd of the 3 primaries that have been separated. Although problems were encountered that resulted in the partial disassembly having to sit over night, the 2nd W56 primary disassembly was accomplished Friday morning.^[II.B.2.a]

AL-R8 Sealed Insert (SI): M&H started a 2 shift operation on the Building 12-64 AL-R8 SI packaging line this week. 20 pits were packaged during this first 2-shift week, and the cumulative total of pits packaged is now 54. Also, the first ALR8-SI packages stacked in the Stage Right configuration have been moved into Building 12-116. The contractor Readiness Assessment for the AL-R8 SI packaging line in Building 12-99 started on Thursday, with hopes of getting approval to begin operations next week. This is key to continuing packaging operations, as Building 12-64 will be shut down (scheduled outage) beginning next week. Design Agency personnel are still planning on being on site the week of August 23rd to conduct follow-up Engineering Evaluation (EE) activities.^[II.B.2.b]

W79 Dismantlement Program: W79 Dismantlement was suspended this week upon discovery of a cracked weld in a dissolution station drain pipe, which had resulted in DMSO leakage. It appears that the weld cracked because flange support welds specified on the dissolution station drawings were missing. Repair options are being evaluated. It appears that the most feasible option is to obtain the necessary hardware/subassemblies from one of the other 2 dissolution stations that have been used for training. Toward that end, the drain pipe and flange assembly from workstation #3 has been removed and will be inspected for cracks and possible use on the leaking workstation. M&H is estimating that the W79 Dismantlement line will be down for at least 2 weeks.^[II.B.2.a]

Lightning Issues: M&H was expected to deliver to the DOE/AAO a revised lightning JCO on Wednesday of this week. On Tuesday night, M&H management (including Dr. Weinreich, who has been made personally accountable for this document by the DOE-AL Manager) rejected the document and sent it back for rework. The earliest that AAO expects to see the revised document is now next Tuesday, since Dr. Weinreich is not available until Monday to review and approve it.^[II.B.2.b]