

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 1, 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 October 1, 1999

DNFSB Activity Summary: T. Dwyer and H. Waugh were on site all week. J. McConnell and T. Burns were on site Thursday-Friday attending briefings with Deputy Secretary Glauthier.

W62 D&I Program: This week, DOE-AL has been working to draft a guidance memorandum to clarify the NES Review process to be conducted on the W62 D&I Program. Although it has not been signed yet, an advance copy of the memorandum and the accompanying NES Review Plan appeared to address Board concerns with the original plan to conduct a W62 D&I Program NESS Revalidation.^[II.A]

Recommendation 98-2 -- NESSG Issues: On Thursday, DP-20 and the DOE-AL Manager met with DOE's NESS chairmen, members, and advisors, to discuss the future of NESS, as an outgrowth of Recommendation 98-2, subrecommendation 5. Of note, the assemblage was informed that 3 "emeritus" NESSG members would be hired by DOE-AL, probably by the 1st quarter of CY 00. However, the potential use envisioned for these 3 individuals diverged somewhat from previous commitments to the Board. In particular, only 1 emeritus member would be assigned to each NESS activity, for which the core group would consist of 5 positions, assigned to DOE-AL (1), M&H (1), and the Design Agencies (1 each). Further, the emeritus member would not be a signatory member of the NESS activity -- rather he would verbally inform the DOE-AL Manager that he concurred with the quality of the NESS activity.^[II.A]

Lightning Issues: Initial AAO review of the M&H BIO Upgrade module addressing lightning revealed that many of the controls presented in the documentation were not currently implemented, but instead were described as a desired end state that would be achieved at some future point [preferably before the start of the next lightning season in April]. Therefore, in the interim, AAO has directed M&H to rework and resubmit the lightning JCO, capturing the lightning controls that are currently in effect. Of note, on Thursday M&H discovered an unbonded penetration in Building 12-84 bay 5. This is significant, in that M&H had reported the facility bonding complete, AAO had verified and accepted this claim, and unbonded stand-off distances have been in use in the facility throughout the summer.^[II.A]

AL-R8 Sealed Insert (SI): AL-R8 SI pit packaging continued, although throughput is still closer to 4 pits packaged per day this week. It is expected that the cumulative number of pits packaged into AL-R8 SIs will surpass 149 today.^[II.A]

Environmental Restoration Issues: Serious Texans Against Nuclear Dumping (STAND) and the Panhandle Area Neighbors and Landowners (PANAL) have initiated a resolution in Carson County Commissioner's Court seeking a professional mediator for future interactions between [a] STAND, PANAL, Carson County, and the State of Texas; and [b] the DOE and DOE's contractors (e.g., M&H). The resolution names the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District as the agent for selecting the mediator.^[III.A]