

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 8, 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 8, 1999

DNFSB Activity Summary: T. Dwyer was on site all week. H. Waugh was on site Monday-Wednesday, and on leave Thursday-Friday. W. Andrews and F. Bamdad were on site Monday-Wednesday attending the [LANL sponsored] HAR Workshop.

W62 D&I Program: By memorandum dated October 1st, the DOE-AL Manager provided guidance for the upcoming W62 NES Review. The memorandum included a *W62 NES Study Revalidation Plan*, which addresses Board concerns regarding the original plan to conduct a W62 D&I Program NESS Revalidation. In addition, the entire NESSG Team (or their representatives) attended a planning meeting held on site on Wednesday, at which the W62 NESS Revalidation Chairman made it very clear that he expects all members to make “a current, unbiased assessment about the W62 operations regarding the NES Standards.” Further, each member will be expected to sign the final report, which will include a statement along the lines of: “The NESSG concludes that the W62 operation continues to satisfy the NES Standards.”^[II.A]

HAR Development Workshop: This week, LANL led a 2-day HAR Development Workshop at Pantex, with the stated purpose of using the lessons learned in recent Pantex HAR development efforts to streamline the HAR process. Over 50 representatives from all 3 Design Agencies, M&H, AAO, DOE-AL, and DOE-HQ attended. The workshop was considerably enhanced by the strong participation and leadership of the [current] DOE-AL HAR approval authority. In particular, with each presentation, all workshop participants were directed to consider how the ideas under discussion would result in “establish[ing] a defensible and effective control set that governs safe operations.” DOE-STD-3009-94 was cited as the governing standard to be used in designing control set hierarchies. Several action items were developed during the workshop -- most significant were 2 commitments on the part of the Design Agencies:

- [1] the Design Agencies and M&H will meet and agree on a process [that will be formally proposed to DOE-AL] by which weapons response information will be provided to M&H for use in authorization basis documents; and
- [2] the Design Agencies will reach a consensus on what parts of each HAR need be approved by the Design Agencies, and how that approval will be formalized.

The workshop appeared to be an effective forum for airing differences among the various participants' organizations that have hindered effective HAR development. Satisfactory resolution of the resulting action items will be the determining factor with regard to grading the success or failure of the workshop as a whole.^[III.A]