

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 24, 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 November 24, 1999

DNFSB Activity Summary: H. Waugh was on site all week. T. Dwyer was on site Monday and Tuesday.

W62 D&I Program: Neither the W62 D&I Nuclear Explosive Safety Study (NESS) Revalidation nor the DOE-AL Readiness Assessment (RA) were scheduled to convene this week, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. M&H took advantage of this fact to work the open items remaining from the contractor RA and the Standing Management Team (SMT) Milestone 3 meeting(s). A final SMT teleconference was held Tuesday afternoon. Assuming successful completion of the Level 2 training on the final revision of the cell NEOP and subsequent receipt of the M&H Declaration of Readiness Letter, the SMT concluded that Milestone 3 was satisfied. The NESS and RA were authorized to commence observation of demonstrations on Monday, November 29th. Of note, the Declaration of Readiness will cite 2 open pre-start issues, although they are identified as having clear paths to closure. The 1st issue has to do with procurement of HE floor matting that meets plant flammability and skid testing requirements [see below]. The 2nd issue is associated with the Potential Inadequacy in the Safety Analysis (PISA) identified last week with regard to the ceramaseal® isolators in Building 12-104 bay 16.^[II.A]

Fire Protection Issues: M&H has determined that at least 2 acceptable HE flooring mat materials are available commercially. Local procurement of mats of 1 of the materials has been made; delivery of the 1st batch is expected on site by December 10th.^[II.A]

W87 Program: Last Wednesday, DOE-AL approved the W87 HAR (Revision 1) and ABCD (Revision 1), which deal with authorizing armed MSAD operations for the W87 D&I Program. Two conditions of approval were levied in the approval letter:

- 1] Fully incorporate the Administrative Controls associated with instituting a bay limit of 1 unit when armed MSAD operations will be conducted and with use of aluminum covers on W87 assembly stands when using them for ramp transportation.
- 2] Fully incorporate the lightning JCO controls into W87 operations.

The W87 Program Manager is now negotiating the date to begin a Technical Assist (formerly called a Management Self Assessment) to get ready for start-up.^[II.A]

Facility Representative Program: AAO conducted Facility Representative oral examinations (final qualification) for 2 candidates on Tuesday. Both candidates passed, though considerable discussion accompanied that decision in 1 case. The oral examination board conducted itself in a professional manner, and the conclusions reached in both cases, including remedial training requirements specified, captured most of the Site Representatives concerns.^[I.B.3]