

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 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 December 24, 1999

DNFSB Activity Summary: H. Waugh was on site Monday, and on leave the rest of the week. T. Dwyer was on site Monday-Wednesday, and on leave Thursday and Friday.

W62 D&I Program: Preparations for W62 D&I Program start-up continued this week. M&H commenced the redemonstration of the W62 mechanical [bay] disassembly process last Friday, worked through the weekend, and completed the operation before noon on Monday. Redemonstration of the W62 operations in the cell commenced Monday afternoon. By Tuesday afternoon, DOE-AL and AAO personnel determined that they were satisfied with the progress observed, and the redemonstration was terminated. Note that AAO had previously decided that the bore-down process and satellite facility operations need not be redemonstrated. Observers for AAO included Facility Representatives, Production Operations staff, and [briefly] the acting AAO Manager; the DOE-AL Readiness Assessment team leader joined the observer team Monday morning. AAO has begun to validate and approve closure of pre-start findings from both the NESS and the DOE-AL Readiness Assessment. AAO has also assigned personnel to review the adequacy of the closure packages from the contractor Readiness Assessment. As a final “compensatory measure,” AAO and M&H will provide continuous oversight of the 1st two WR units [a pilot lot], using a team of M&H conduct of operations mentors, and AAO Facility Representatives, Authorization Basis staff, and Production Operations staff. In the mean time, the NESS Revalidation report has reportedly been signed by DP-20. However, delivery of the report and guidance on resolution of its findings have been delayed while DOE-AL and AAO hold internal discussions regarding the NESS finding that requires inclusion of the W62 Nuclear Explosive Safety Rules (NESRs) in the ABCD.^[II.A]

Fire Protection Issues: M&H has received the new [acceptable] HE floor matting materials and begun placing them in operational facilities. In particular, the cell being prepared for W62 operations now uses the new material. The new mats are solid and black, easily distinguishable from the old red-brown, honeycomb mats.^[II.A]

Contract Issues: DOE has established a website that will maintain up-to-date information on the recompetition of the Pantex, Kansas City, and Y-12 (Oak Ridge) contracts:^[II.B]

<http://www.dp.doe.gov/nwpp>

Future Events Notice: Next week, the Pantex Plant is shut down for the holidays. Therefore, next week’s Pantex Plant Activity Report will be filed for continuity purposes only.