

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 6, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director
FROM: T. Dwyer and H. Waugh, Pantex Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending February 6, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: Harry Waugh and Timothy Dwyer were on site all week. Outside Expert Lary McGrew was on site Monday through Wednesday attending the W79 Dismantlement Program WR Cell SIRR and NESS SIID validation.

Pit Storage Issues: In order to establish the validity of the ultrasonic testing (UT) being used to determine the quality of AT-400A containment vessel girth welds, the first 2 of 6 empty welded AT-400As have been delivered to the LLNL/SNL for evaluation. SNL has also located the Normal Test Condition SARP container, and has cut out the girth weld for evaluation. These evaluations will take several weeks; however, the adequacy of the weld for pit storage (not off-site transportation) can be determined by a leak check. Therefore, AAO has authorized M&H to resume repackaging the second pilot lot (20 W48 pits) in the AT-400A. In related issues, selection of the AL-R8 Sealed Insert design has reportedly been deferred to April. Also, a working draft of the DOE-AL *Integrated Pit Storage Program Plan* has been obtained; DOE-HQ has requested feedback from the Board staff following their review of this document.

W79 Dismantlement Program: Tuesday thru Thursday this week, the W79 NESSG (Ryder, DOE-AL, Chairman) conducted a validation review of the Single Integrated Input Document (SIID) for the W79 Dismantlement Program. At the conclusion of the review, the NESSG declared the SIID adequate; the W79 NESS will commence February 23rd. It appears that the scope of the NESS does not include any aspects of on-site transportation. In addition, the W79 WR Cell Single Independent Readiness Review (SIRR) was conducted this week (Monday), resulting in approximately 10 pre-start findings and 3 observations. None of the findings are expected to be major impediments to W79 program start-up.

B61-11 Program: The B61-11 SIRR was scheduled to run from Monday through Friday of this week. Although it started on schedule, it was not completed in the allotted time. The Weapons Program Readiness Review (WPRR) members of the SIRR called a temporary halt to the review Thursday morning due to the cumulative number of observations involving NEOP errors, uses of improper tooling, trainer fidelity issues, and B61-11 supervisory team assertions that these observations were not unexpected given that this was "not an SS-21 program." The Safety Evaluation (SE) members of the SIRR, on the other hand, had no major findings and did not appear to understand the WPRR members' objections. These two halves of the SIRR will therefore observe the remaining demonstrations over the next two weeks and then issue separate reports. The cumulative WPRR observations are even more disconcerting when viewed in light of the recent successful conclusion of a B61-11 Management Self Assessment (MSA).

Building 12-116: M&H has established an aggressive schedule pointing to start-up of Building 12-116 by May 1st. This schedule allows only the month of February to complete physical upgrades, as well as authorization basis documentation (e.g., SAR, S/RID), with an MSA, contractor ORR, and DOE ORR squeezed into March and April. The driver appears to be a contractual incentive to transfer a number of pits into 12-116 for interim storage by Sept. 30th.

Attachment

Upcoming Pantex Events:

February 9-13 -- W56 Project Team walkthroughs**

February 17-18 -- AAO Management Off-Site Retreat**

February 23-March 27 -- W79 NESS

March 9-20 -- Building 12-116 Management Self-Assessment (MSA)**

March 13 -- W76 HATT walkthroughs complete**

March 20 -- B61-11 NESE SIID validation [adequacy review]

March 24-25 -- B83 Provisioning and Program Review**

March 26 -- W87 ASSET Program Final Management Team Review**

April 30-April 9 -- Building 12-116 Contractor ORR**

April 7-17 -- B61-11 NESE

April 20 -- W79 FDU

April 20 -- W76 SIRR commences**

April 20-May 1 -- Building 12-116 DOE ORR**

May 1 -- Building 12-116 startup**

May 5-8 -- W56 NESS SIID validation [adequacy review]

May 5-29 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study

June 2-July 10 -- W56 NESS

June 9 -- W76 HAR and ABCD complete**

NOTES: ** highlights events which are new listings or for which schedule has changed