

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 13, 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 March 13, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: Timothy Dwyer and Harry Waugh were on site all week. Jack Deplitch and OE Lary McGrew were on site all week for the W79 Dismantlement NESS.

W79 Dismantlement Program: The W79 Dismantlement Program NESS continued this week, concentrating on cell operations. The NESSG appeared to lack adequate expertise in fire phenomenology/effects and lightning (few enlightening questions were raised). They also appeared ready to accept several presentations at face value until the Board staff presented additional questions that stimulated follow-on questions by the NESSG. The lack of NESS criteria became an issue and was used at one point by LLNL representatives to fend off probing questions by the NESSG. Further, there was discussion about whether category 2 nuclear facility requirements were even applicable to NES.

The major issues discussed at length were flammability of DMSO, seismic effects, the hot water system for the DMSO dissolution workstation, and lightning effects. It appears that lightning will be not considered an issue by the NESSG. The NESSG has not accepted the controls on the hot water system and has requested additional information, particularly with respect to qualification of the system. The seismic evaluation of the facility and equipment is in question (i.e., to what performance criteria they should be evaluated, or "what can be withstood"). Flammability in the DMSO dissolution workstation is the area of most concern. The Project Team/LLNL position is that a fire can not happen and therefore analyses of the consequences of DMSO ignition or fire are irrelevant and were not completed.

Building 12-116: The Building 12-116 Management Self-Assessment (MSA) commenced on Monday. At present, there is considerable physical work remaining to be done within the facility; the Safety Analysis Report (SAR) is neither approved nor complete; and operator training on such things as the facility and program pre-operational checklists is just beginning. The first two procedures demonstrated for the MSA resulted in so many observations that they will both be repeated later in the review. Next week the MSA team is planning on running a facility drill set. This will be the first time any of the operators have performed any drills, and the MSA team has resigned themselves to performing in more of a teaching role than as evaluators. It is expected that the MSA will take longer to complete than originally scheduled, but at present the official start date for the contractor Operational Readiness Review (ORR) remains March 30th.

Personnel Issues: The appointment of R.T. Brock as AAO Senior Scientific and Technical Advisor is pending approval by the DOE-HQ Executive Review Board -- currently scheduled to meet March 31st. AAO was granted permission to hire four Facility Representatives (two more than originally advertised); three of the four have already accepted the offer. Two AAO individuals have been appointed to 120-day details as follows: E. Demerson - Assistant Area Office Manager for Nuclear Materials; M. Ulshaffer - Weapons Quality Division Branch Chief. DOE-HQ has appointed an EH Site Resident to fill W. Anawalt's vacant position: F. Volpe.

Attachment
Upcoming Pantex Events:

Now-March 27 -- W79 NESS [in progress]

Now-March 20 -- Building 12-116 Management Self-Assessment (MSA) [in progress]

March 20 -- B61-11 NESE SIID distribution**

March 24 -- Second W87 ASSET Program Senior Management Team Review

March 24-25 -- B83 Provisioning and Program Review

March 25 -- Major Sitewide Emergency Exercise

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

March 31 -- Final W87 ASSET Senior Management Team Review

March 31 -- W56 Bay MSA begins**

April 7-17 -- B61-11 NESE

April 7-8 -- NMO Quarterly Meeting/Quarterly Production Meeting

April 13-16 -- W56 SIRR

April 20 -- W79 FDU

April 20 -- W76 SIRR commences

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

April 28-May 1 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study SIID validation [adequacy review]

May 1 -- Building 12-116 startup

May 4-8 -- JOWOG [possibly including lightning workshop]

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

May 18-June 14 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study

June 2-July 10 -- W56 NESS

June 9 -- W76 HAR and ABCD complete

June 9-19 -- W62 NES Revalidation

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