

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 3, 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 April 3, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: Timothy Dwyer was on site all week. Harry Waugh was on site Tuesday through Friday. Jack Deplitch was on site Wednesday observing the W79 NESS.

W79 Dismantlement Program: The W79 Dismantlement Program NESS continued this week, still concentrating on NESSG deliberations and writing the NESS report. Deliberations are nearly complete, and will resume again here next week (Monday thru Thursday). No new issues have been raised, although as a result of a meeting between the Project Team, the Design Agencies, and DP-3 (Stello) on Thursday, several additional controls will be added to the authorization basis. In addition, the W79 Safety Evaluation/Readiness Assessment (SE/RA) team, which was operating in parallel with the NESS, briefed DOE management on their findings: 5 pre-starts, 21 post-starts, 77 enhancements, 8 observations (no further action required) -- 111 total items. The final report will not be issued for several weeks.

Pit Issues: On Tuesday, DOE-AL, AAO, and M&H made presentations to the Pantex Plant Citizen's Advisory Board (PPCAB) regarding the status of the AL-R8 Sealed Insert selection process, the AT-400A Pit Repackaging Program, and the draft Integrated Pit Storage Program Plan (IPSPP). DOE-AL indicated that the final selection of the Sealed Insert design will be made by April 30th. The "final draft" version of the IPSPP will be distributed by May 31st. A Tiger Team has been established to develop the IPSPP systems engineering evaluation. It includes representatives from DOE-AL, AAO, M&H, and the Design Agencies, and will be working at Pantex between now and the end of May. The team has been tasked to: [1] identify the work functions involved in pit storage and surveillance activities; [2] identify requirements and decision factors; [3] assist in container selection and other storage decisions (e.g., repackaging, storage, on-site transportation, surveillance); and [4] identify future considerations and impacts. (Note: Observation of a Tiger Team meeting led the Site Representatives to conclude that this effort is suffering from a lack of direction and a continuing misunderstanding of the issues at hand.) Based on the data briefed to the PPCAB, if DOE approves putting all pits in Sealed Inserts, packaging can be completed by 2003; if all pits must be placed in AT-400As, packaging will continue through 2010 (optimistic, given observed AT-400A packaging rates); if some mixture of containers is approved, the repackaging completion date will fall somewhere between these two. DOE-AL was asked by the PPCAB what public input mechanisms existed for the IPSPP. DOE-AL responded that they were depending on their "heavy interaction with the Board staff."

Building 12-116: AAO approved the Building 12-116 Final Safety Evaluation Report (SER) last Thursday. The M&H Management Self-Assessment (MSA) of Building 12-116 continued generating a significant list (over 100) of findings and observations. The contractor ORR is expected to commence April 20th, with the DOE ORR following immediately afterward.

Building 12-64: M&H initiated an attempt to X-Ray the rebar joint (splice) in a Building 12-64 bay using the portable LINAC. However, measured radiation levels at the personnel exclusion boundaries were higher than expected; the effort was aborted pending re-evaluation of the operation. A second attempt under a revised procedure will be initiated early next week.

Attachment
Upcoming Pantex Events:

Now-April 10 -- W79 NESS [in progress]

Now-April 9 -- Building 12-116 Management Self-Assessment (MSA) [in progress]

April 6 -- W56 Bay MSA begins**

April 7-17 -- B61-11 NES UNESQD

April 7 -- NMO Quarterly Meeting

April 8 -- Quarterly Production Meeting

April 8 -- W84 SE Close-out Briefing**

April 8 -- Quarterly NESS Status Review**

April 13-16 -- W56 SIRR

April 20-May 2 -- Building 12-116 Contractor ORR**

April 20 -- W79 FDU [doubtful]

April 20 -- W76 SIRR commences

April 23 -- Pit Thermal Meeting**

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

??? -- Building 12-116 DOE ORR**

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

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

??? -- Building 12-116 startup**

June 2-July 10 -- W56 NESS

June 9 -- W76 HAR and ABCD complete

June 9-19 -- W62 NES Revalidation

??? -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study**

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