

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 22, 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 May 22, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: Harry Waugh was on site all week. Timothy Dwyer was on site Tuesday & Wednesday, before departing on 2-weeks leave. Jay DeLoach was on site Friday.

AT-400A Pit Repackaging Line: Effective May 14th, M&H has discontinued use of the AT-400A Manual Line Charge Code, which amounts to discontinuing work on the project. The M&H Program Manager has been tasked to develop a shutdown plan for the line.

ALR8 Sealed Insert Meeting: A Sealed Insert meeting was held this week with attendees from DOE/AAO, MHC, LLNL, and LANL. There were discussions with respect to the Insert back fill gas and pit imaging specifications. Pantex wants to backfill the Sealed Insert with helium while LLNL insists that it should be argon. With respect to pit imaging, LLNL insists that all pits shall be imaged prior to packaging and Pantex indicates that this will delay the start of pit packaging for many months. LLNL continues to dominate the discussions but LANL finally broke their silence when they indicated that if LLNL insisted that all of the LLNL pits had to meet the imaging requirement, then MHC could begin repackaging with LANL pits.

Pit Thermal Meeting: Discussions of interest at the monthly Pit Thermal Meeting included an update on the Building 12-116/12-26 vault instrumentation plan. Details of the testing currently planned to obtain a correlation between pit surface temperature and the external temperature of the ALR8 Sealed Insert in which the pit will be packaged were outlined. They plan to demonstrate that reliable pit surface temperatures can be ascertained from temperature sensors placed externally on the loading end of the Sealed Insert.

Airport Upgrades: This summer, several improvement projects for the Amarillo International Airport that are funded by DOE are to be accomplished. One of the more important projects is the placement of a new VORTAC (Very high frequency omni-direction radio range with tactical air navigation) at the end of Runway 13 in the August 1998 timeframe. After flight checks are conducted on this VORTAC in the fall of 1998, the existing VORTAC, located just outside of the southwest corner of the Pantex Plant, will be phased out of operation as the new VORTAC is brought on line. This improvement should reduce the number of overflights of Zone 4 and 12 and thus reduce the safety risks. Additionally, DOE/AAO has sent letters to the commanders of the Air Force bases at Tinker, Altus, Vance, and Dyess requesting them to refamiliarize their flight crews with the Pantex overflight concerns when conducting flight training at the Amarillo International Airport.

Attachment
Upcoming Pantex Events:

May 27 -- W84 Project Team Meeting **

May 29 -- W79 Bay Startup **

June 2-3 -- DOE Lightning Workshop (@ DOE-AL)

June 3 -- W87 ASSET Final Management Team Review

June 5 -- W79 Cell Startup **

June 9-19 -- W62 NES Revalidation

June 15-26 -- Building 12-116 DOE ORR (tentative)**

June 15-18 -- U.K visit - SS21

June 15-26 -- W56 SIRR (tentative)

??Jul -- Building 12-116 startup

Jul 7-8 -- W78 SEP **

Jul 8 -- Quarterly Production Meeting **

July 9-13 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study SIID validation [adequacy review]

???? -- B61-7 Limited Readiness Assessment

July 30-August 26 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study

August 28 -- Bldg 12-104A Paint Bay MSA commences

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