

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 2, 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 July 3, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: Timothy Dwyer was on site all week. Harry Waugh was on site Tuesday thru Thursday. Jay DeLoach and Farid Bamdad were on site Monday and Tuesday reviewing Pantex analytical methods for hazard analyses, S&S, and emergency response activity.

Building 12-116: The SNM Component Staging Facility (Building 12-116) DOE ORR concluded this week with an outbriefing on Tuesday. The ORR team reported 10 pre-start findings, 14 post-start findings, and 3 observations. Three areas in particular were highlighted as needing improvement: maintenance, safety envelope implementation, and management. In particular, conduct of maintenance and maintenance work control were the subject of multiple specific deficiencies. Inadequacies were also reported in the overlap between maintenance and the safety envelope -- surveillance acceptance criteria were found to be missing/incomplete; and some facility systems had portions classified as Safety Significant, while other portions were classified and treated as Balance of Plant. Overall, the ORR team recommended proceeding with start-up pending closure of the pre-start findings and development of corrective action plans (CAPs) for all post-start findings. Approval authority for both the closure packages and CAPs is AAO.

W62 NESS Revalidation: M&H submitted, and AAO forwarded to DOE-AL, a letter recommending that M&H conduct a review of the existing W62 Disassembly Program against "current safety criteria." This review will use the ASSET standard (Pantex Plant STD-9180), and be conducted over the next 30 days. [Normally, at least 6 months are allotted for an ASSET review.] From this ASSET-like review, M&H expects to recommend potential W62 disassembly process enhancements to M&H and AAO line management. In the interim, M&H recommends that the W62 NESS Revalidation be suspended. Arguments with M&H and AAO that Revalidation of the W62 NESS in the first place is a miscarriage of the NESS process have met with claims that such a decision is not within their purview, but belongs to DOE-AL.

Authorization Basis Analytical Methods: Analytical Methods were reviewed from three perspectives: S&S, Emergency Management (EM), and weapons programs (Risk Management). The S&S policy for protection of SNM focuses on total access denial, since all Pantex SNM is treated as Category I material, requiring this level of protection. EM has made significant progress, performing a Hazard Assessment and preparing Emergency Action Levels (EALs) that are consistent with DOE Order requirements. The Hazard Assessment, however, was developed without much assistance from Risk Management; consequently, there are significant differences between the assumptions and parameters used in this Hazard Assessment, as compared to weapons program authorization basis documents. Resolution of these differences may impact the basis for Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) determinations. On the other hand, this Hazard Assessment has identified several vulnerabilities in non-nuclear facilities that require further attention by the authorization basis disciplines. It was noted that Risk Management division has not yet identified the code that will be used for accident analyses in the pilot BIO Upgrade. The current authorization bases for nuclear facilities and activities are still a mixed assortment of old SARs, USQs, a BIO, the CSSM, OSRs, HARs, NESSs, and ABCD documents.

Attachment
Upcoming Pantex Events:

July 7 -- Quarterly NMO Program Meeting

July 8 -- Quarterly Production Meeting

??July?? -- Building 12-116 startup

July 14-16 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study SIID Adequacy Review**

??July?? -- Building 12-94 AAU MSA

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

July 23 -- W78 SEP

July 27-31 -- B53 Aft Cap Assy Cover NESS

??July?? -- W56 SIRR

August 3-5 -- DP-3 review of BIO Upgrade status

August 11 -- Public Meeting: Draft Surplus Pu PEIS

August 11-September 18 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study**

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

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