

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 10, 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 10, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: Timothy Dwyer and Harry Waugh were on site all week. William White was on site Thursday and Friday reviewing electrical tester safety documentation.

W62 NESS Revalidation: Formal direction from DOE-AL as to the M&H-proposed path forward has not yet been received. Verbal reports indicate DOE-AL intends to proceed as follows: [1] M&H perform the 1 month ASSET-like review; [2] Obtain informal NESSG feedback from Revalidation effort so far; [3] Repair the NEOPs noted to be problematic; [4] Address NESSG and M&H concerns from items #1 and #2 in "some" manner; [5] Reconvene the Revalidation; [6] Proceed with W62 D&I. The W62 SS-21 effort remains on its FY 02 schedule.

W79 Cell Dissolution: Dissolution of the 3rd W79 Dismantlement Program unit remains on hold. Despite previously reported agreement on an investigative path forward, the Design Agencies have not delivered the expected July 2nd report -- in fact, they have stated that DOE should not expect a report. DOE-AL (WPD) is expecting the Design Agencies to formally sign out a recommendation and change the W79 Weapon Safety Specification, but it is not likely that this will occur earlier than July 17th. Although detailed material examinations yielded no indication of hydriding, LLNL/SNL are not yet prepared to conclude that hydriding is not a potential problem. LLNL/SNL are also focusing on the particular W79 parts in question and have not attempted to address this issue in broader terms [beyond W79].

Integrated Pit Storage Program Plan (IPSP) Issues: The IPSP, which has been delayed from January 31st to March 31st to May 31st, has now been delayed to July 31st. M&H input to the plan was delivered to AAO May 29th, but was not forwarded to DOE-AL due to lack of quality. However, this M&H input has languished since that time, neither returned to M&H for rework nor forwarded to DOE-AL with caveats. In the mean time, the SNL systems engineering analyses for the IPSP are not yet complete, although portions have reportedly been delivered to DOE-AL. Other portions of the plan are being developed in-house at DOE-AL -- status on these sections is uncertain. Despite this apparent disarray, DOE-AL continues to make abortive attempts at program direction, including a letter (subsequently canceled) directing all parties to discontinue AT-400A work, but hold all parts, tooling, and facilities in standby to resume operations should unexpected difficulties be encountered in the sealed insert program. LLNL and LANL issued the pit specifications that will be controlling for sealed insert storage on June 24th. M&H expects to develop the documentation to implement these specifications by the end of next week. Assuming this goal is realized, a Sealed Insert Design Review Team will convene on site 2 weeks later. In a side note, M&H reported that ~30 W76 pits have been moved from one magazine to another due to potential temperature concerns during the recent extended heat wave.

Building 12-116: M&H expects to have all ORR pre-start findings closed in time to start up August 1st. Additionally, an M&H contingency plan to address loss of air conditioning is being developed. It will include installation of stand-pipe connections and staging of the site portable air conditioning unit in 12-116. Meanwhile, the initial pit loading plan remains at issue.

**Attachment
Upcoming Pantex Events:**

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 24 -- Target Date for Closure of Building 12-116 ORR Prestart Findings**

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

July 27-31 -- ISM Verification Team Orientation**

July 27-31 -- Sealed Insert Design Review [tentative]**

??July?? -- W56 SIRR

August 1 -- Building 12-116 startup**

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

August 4 -- Building 12-121 Readiness Assessment Commences**

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