

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 25, 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 September 25, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: H. Waugh was on site all week. T. Dwyer was on site Tuesday through Friday.

Integrated Weapons Activity Plan (IWAP): The W80 and W78 Project Teams conducted IWAP reviews this week. In conjunction with the review activities, the Site Representative investigated the status of Weapons Safety Specifications (WSSs) for the 15 weapons systems still in existence. It has been determined that 4 of these weapons systems still do not have a WSS. For the W84 and W87, release of a WSS is reportedly imminent; for the W80 and W88, WSS development has not yet begun.

W56 Single Integrated Readiness Review (SIRR): The W56 (SIRR) concluded last week; the close-out briefing was held this Thursday, although the final report is not expected to be issued until next week. The SIRR Team concluded that the W56 process was not yet ready to proceed. They identified 44 pre-start findings, 2 post-start findings, and 17 observations (4 observations were positive, as opposed to deficiencies). Nearly 40% of the findings/observations involved radiological issues. Of particular concern were the W56 NEOPs, and the approval and flowdown of the Authorization Basis -- the SIRR team recommended they reconvene to look into these areas following completion of project team corrective actions. Based on the SIRR findings, it appears that the MSA conducted in March/April was inadequate. On a positive note, the SIRR Team went out of their way to praise the PTs involved in this process, noting that the process knowledge and performance observed throughout the review was the best in recent memory.

W79 Cell Dissolution: Following a 4-week maintenance period, W79 operations will resume in Building 12-98 Cell 1 next Monday with the dissolution of unit number 9. While Cell 1 remained in maintenance mode this week, Work Station #2 in Cell 2 was put into service for the first time, on a Type 6B trainer. This operation employed newly designed M&H spray nozzles, and a refined spray pattern, resulting in an apparent 3-hour decrease in total dissolution time.

W62 Dismantlement Program: The W62 SS-21 Attribute Review report has been delayed again, and now is not expected to be issued prior to completion of next week's W62 IWAP review. Of note, senior M&H management has stated an intent to forward a separate letter discussing the W62 path forward; this letter is expected to be signed out late today or first thing Monday. Based on discussions with the personnel involved in writing the Attribute Review report and a review of the M&H management recommendation, it appears that both of these documents are based on a working assumption that the suspended NESS Revalidation will be reconvened.