

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 18, 1997

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

**FROM:** Harry Waugh, Pantex Site Representative

**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending July 18, 1997

**1. DNFSB Activity Summary:** Harry Waugh was on site all week. Tim Dwyer was off this week moving his family to Amarillo.

**2. Issue Follow-Up:**

- a. B61-3 Recovery: Following a detailed walk through of the B61-3 recovery procedures by the Project Team, it was recommended that disassembly of the weapon be resumed. All necessary approvals were obtained, and disassembly operations got under way Thursday afternoon.
- b. B83 QIP Disassembly: Continuing the story of last week with respect to a valve that failed a PT 4030 test during a disassembly operation, the valve was subsequently checked again and passed the test. Since the PT 4030 had been checked and found operable, the Design Agency, SNL/CA, originated a Special Instruction Engineering Release to authorize a deviation from the normal disassembly procedure. This procedure authorized removal of two valves and connecting cabling as a subassembly allowing them to then check out the valves and circuitry on the bench. These operations have all been completed now and all to no avail. Normal disassembly is proceeding, and this episode will have to be chalked up as an unexplained anomaly.
- c. AT-400A: Mason and Hanger (MHC) is scrambling to reach closure on all of the prestart and poststart findings that resulted from their ORR. It appears that they may be working over the weekend in order to obtain the Approval to Proceed documentation that is required prior to the scheduled start of the DOE ORR on Monday morning. The already weary and exhausted AT-400A team is facing another long and hard two weeks of activity.
- d. Lightning Protection: Following a week of lots of mixed signals and changes in direction, the lightning protection course seems to have stabilized. A draft SNL/NM letter, "Interim Lightning Safety at Pantex," is in hand that documents conclusions and gives Pantex specific, "Interim Guidelines," applicable to the B83, W79, W88, B61-5, and W62. Pantex is currently in the process of identifying unbonded penetrations into active bays and cells, and proceeding to bond them at their entry points. In addition to the weapons bays

and cells listed above, the W69 bay and cell are also receiving attention as they prepare for the FDU scheduled to begin next week.

**3. Future Activities:**

- a. July 21 - DOE AT-400A ORR Begins
- b. July 21 - W69 First Dismantlement Unit (FDU)
- c. July 22 - Combined HAAT Meeting
- d. July 28–August 8 - W56 Dismantlement Demo for HATT
- e. August 11–15 Major Sitewide Emergency Exercise
- f. August 11–15 W56 project team and SE Validation
- g. August 13 - W78 SS-21 Milestone I Meeting
- h. August 18 - W56 WPRR starts
- i. August 11 W87 SEP Starts (change)