

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 8, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: T. Dwyer and H. Waugh, Pantex Site Representatives

SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for the Week Ending August 8, 1997

DNFSB Activity Summary: Timothy Dwyer was on site all week. Harry Waugh was on leave all week.

Radiological Controls Issues: Two radiological controls issues have been the subject of much attention at the site over the last two weeks.

- The regular *monthly* reading of a PT's TLD indicated 980 mrem whole body dose, which exceeds his *yearly* administrative control limit (850 mrem). Extensive testing of the TLD revealed it was functioning properly; however, the reading conflicted with data taken in parallel from supplemental extremity TLDs worn by the PT, as well as the readings obtained from his coworker's TLDs. M&H Radiation Safety management is still trying to determine the path forward to identify the root cause of this event.
- M&H, as represented by the Deputy General Manager, argued strenuously against requiring ETs to use leaded gloves in the AT-400A Pit Repackaging program. Instead, M&H proposed that no gloves be worn for the pilot (20) pits, but that radiological data be gathered to determine if additional radiological safety measures should be instituted once the pilot run was complete. AAO over-ruled this proposal as non-conservative. M&H will be required to use the leaded gloves for the pilot pits, but is encouraged to gather radiological data to prove that this conservative safety measure can be relaxed.

AT-400A ORR: The AT-400A Pit Repackaging DOE ORR is complete. The ORR team identified five prestart findings and fifteen poststart findings. None of the findings are expected to prove difficult to correct, although the actions required to address the leaded gloves issue (see above) have resulted in sufficient procedural changes that the design agencies will revalidate the procedures. This will delay FPU, but M&H still maintains the first unit will be canned next week.

Lightning Protection: SNL has appointed Ron Andreas as their single point of contact for lightning protection issues. An interim, consolidated list of SNL recommendations has been provided to Pantex, with further data analyses in progress. M&H has developed a prioritized bay/cell program to implement these recommendations, running through mid-July 1998. Of note, Pantex experienced a problem this week wherein the lightning warning system was down. Although specific facility/program actions are required upon receipt of lightning warnings, and credit is taken for these actions, there is no formal incorporation of the lightning warning *system* into Pantex safety documents. Thus, there were no measures directed to be taken upon its loss. As a partial compensatory measure, a new standing order has been issued to outline actions to be taken upon loss of this system; further measures are yet to be determined.

Attachment

Upcoming Pantex Events:

August 11 -- W87 SEP starts

August 11–15 -- Major Sitewide Emergency Exercise [event to occur August 13]

August 11–15 -- W56 project team and SE Walkthrough

August 13 -- W78 SS-21 Milestone I Meeting

August 14 -- Dynamic Balancer BIO Management Review [approval by August 18]

August 14, 21 -- ABCD Training Course for DOE personnel

August 25-29 -- Dynamic Balancer IRT **

August 25-29 -- Training Audit (performed by QTD)

August 26 -- W76 Detailed Tooling Brief **

August 27 -- FCDNA visit

September 2 -- Dynamic Balancer startup **

September 4-6 -- W79 Final Project Team Walkthrough

September 6-9 -- W79 SIIR Revisit

September 8-12 -- W56 SE Validation **

September 10 -- W79 Type 6B startup

September 15-26 -- W56 Single Integrated Internal Review

September 22-26 -- DOE-STD-3009-94 seminar (run by SNL)

October 7 -- SNL Institutional Operational Issues and Initiatives Meeting (@ SNL)

October 20-24 -- NESD Annual Appraisal

October 27 -- W56 Milestone 3

November 30 -- Electrical Tester Master Study completion

NOTE: ** highlights events for which schedule has changed