

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 19, 1997

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 19, 1997

DNFSB Activity Summary: Timothy Dwyer and Harry Waugh were on site all week.

Dynamic Balancer: The Dynamic Balancer Project Team is actively pursuing a punch list that reflects the consensus path forward outlined in last week's report. M&H has successfully torn down one of the spare Dynamic Balancers, allowing NDE of several parts (e.g., bolts, main shaft, drive belt) to resolve several of the outstanding questions.

Radiological Control Issue Follow-up: An extensive M&H Internal Audit, Assurance, and Quality Office investigation of the circumstances surrounding an abnormally high (980 mrem) reading found on a production technician's dosimeter has been completed. M&H has determined that inadvertent or intentional action by person(s) unknown resulted in the dosimeter being placed in close proximity to a W62 pit while *not* in contact with the technicians whole body *or* shielded by a lead apron. A recommended calculated dose will probably be assigned to the technician.

W69 Program: W69 dismantlement continued this week. Minor perturbations have slowed progress, but a total of 16 units have now been disassembled and the process seems to be smoothing out. The time allowed for the pilot lot expired today. However, completion of the satisfactory WR SED last week allows M&H to continue to full production with no break in task.

B61 Spin Rocket Defects: SNL, with M&H support, has completed the ultrasonic evaluation of 355 B61 Spin Rockets. Of the 355 units inspected, only four required further inspection; ultimately, only one unit could not be found acceptable. This single questionable unit is being sent to SNL/AL for disassembly to ascertain whether there is an O-ring in place. Of note, this unit is *not* from the same lot as the original (field) failed unit.

PAL Operations Review: A joint AAO/M&H review of PAL operations has been completed. Six issues were identified that require corrective action: (1) lack of oversight; (2) weakness in procedural practices; (3) inadequate maintenance of authorization basis documents; (4) inadequate methods of unit identification; (5) weak implementation of formal conduct of operations; and (6) formal positive measures to ensure procedure-to-weapons match do not exist. A complete copy of the review documentation has been forwarded to the Board staff.

Continuing Lightning Protection Issues: The M&H Manufacturing Division Standing Order (#97-MFG-107) that establishes facility/program specific standoff conditions to meet lightning protection criteria has been found to take credit for the insulating effect of 6 inches of floor concrete without supporting documentation (and contrary to usual construction practices) regarding placement of rebar/wire mesh in the floor. AAO has also begun to question whether a standing order is the proper document to enact this safety control.

Attachment

Upcoming Pantex Events:

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

September 22-October 23 -- W56 Cell Final Walkthrough

September 29-30 -- W79 Final Project Team Walkdown**

October 2-3 -- W79 SIIR Confirmative Review**

October 6 -- W79 Type 6B Startup**

October 6-10 -- Dynamic Balancer Independent Evaluation [*tentative*]**

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

October 13 -- Dynamic Balancer startup [target date - *likely to be delayed*]**

October 20-24 -- NESD Annual Appraisal

November 30 -- Electrical Tester Master Study completion

December 1-12 -- W56 SIIR

NOTES: ** highlights events for which schedule has changed