

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 26, 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 26, 1997

DNFSB Activity Summary: Timothy Dwyer and Harry Waugh were on site all week. Outside Expert Lary McGrew was on site Tuesday through Thursday to review W79 issues.

Dynamic Balancer: The Dynamic Balancer Project Team is actively pursuing the punch list that reflects the consensus path forward previously outlined.

- An SNL report concerning NDE of the bolts removed from a spare Dynamic Balancer indicates that the bolts were torqued beyond yield during a previous assembly. Therefore, they cannot be reused; M&H is trying to locate satisfactory substitutes.
- The Dynamic Balancer BIO change has been revised and resubmitted to DP-2; approval is expected by noon Tuesday. Copies of the BIO change are being reviewed by Board staff.

AT-400A Pit Packaging Program: Pit repackaging is proceeding slowly. Since completing the 1st package on August 25th, 3 more have been completed. Packages 5 and 6 are in the final stages of processing, but the 7th assembly has an unresolved surface weld defect problem. Of note, M&H does not have an approved AT-400A weld defect repair/rework specification.

M&H announced yesterday that they will soon formally propose that the second AT-400A line also be set up in Building 12-99. AAO has questioned the wisdom of using this modern facility for the relatively low-hazard pit repackaging program, as opposed to using one of the older, less robust facilities to leave room for future, more hazardous operations in 12-99.

Pantex S/RIDs: M&H has submitted the *Management Integration and Control* (MIC) S/RID to AAO, and approval of the document is expected soon. The MIC S/RID includes a schedule for delivery of functional area S/RIDs, including the following by the end of September:

- *Criticality Safety; Emergency Management; Environmental Management; Fire Protection; Maintenance; Occupational Safety & Health; Packaging & Transportation; and Safeguards & Security.* [All of these have already been submitted to AAO.]
 - *Facility Engineering & Construction; and Weapons Engineering.* [On schedule for submission by September 30th.]
 - *Radiation Protection.* [Resubmission to address oral AAO comments due September 30th.]
- Based on subsequent modification of the scope of these functional S/RIDs, M&H has determined that the *Utilities* and the *Occupational Medical* S/RIDs, previously listed in the MIC S/RID, have been subsumed by other areas and will not be developed/submitted separately.

Personnel Issues: The DOE-AL Operations Office Manager, Bruce Twining, visited the site Friday. At an all-hands (Federal) meeting, he stated that the DP results of the Congressional Conference Committee were close to the original Senate budget mark. Therefore, DOE-AL had determined that downsizing requirements could be met through identified voluntary separations.

Attachment

Upcoming Pantex Events:

September 29-30 -- W79 Final Project Team Walkdown

October 2-3 -- W79 SIIR Confirmative Review

October 6-7 -- W79 Type 6B

October 6-7 -- General Gioconda Site Visit**

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

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

October 8 -- Pit Thermal Meeting**

October 8 -- Quarterly Production Meeting**

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

October 20-24 -- NESD Annual Appraisal

November 26 -- W79 NESS starts**

November 30 -- Electrical Tester Master Study completion

December 1-12 -- W56 SIIR

NOTES: ** highlights events for which schedule has changed