

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

MEMO TO: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: Tom Spatz, Pantex Site Representative
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending July 13, 2012

W87 Mechanical Assembly Operational Safety Review (OSR): The W87 mechanical assembly OSR started this week and is expected to last several weeks. The Senior Technical Advisor (STA) funding issue that caused the suspension of the W84 known state units NES study did not impact this W87 OSR. (For further details see report for 6/29/12.) The OSR team did include one STA as required by current Nuclear Explosive Safety (NES) directives. This OSR will be the first OSR to adopt the new Category A and Category B finding nomenclature rather than the Pre-start and Post-start finding nomenclature, respectively. Sandia National Laboratories issued new weapon response data associated with another W87 startup activity; the Limited Life Component Exchange operation. The new weapon response is not anticipated to impact the ongoing OSR. B&W Authorization Basis personnel are processing this new information to evaluate the impact to ongoing operations.

B61-7 Readiness Assessment: The B61, Mod 7, rebuild operations Readiness Assessment started this week. The NES study report for this operation was briefed to the NNSA Production Office on July 13. There were no pre-start or post-start findings.

Anomalous Units: The Nuclear Explosive Safety Study Change Evaluation (NCE) for the two anomalous units was performed this week. The NCE report will be issued next week.

NNSA Production Office (NPO) Update: The NPO held an all-hands meeting this week to present recent decisions related to oversight at the Pantex Plant and Y-12. The NPO and NNSA Senior Management have decided not to fill the position of Pantex Deputy Manager, and there will be only one Deputy Manager for both sites. The acting Pantex Deputy Manager, Ms. Debbie Monette, completed her assignment on July 13, and will be returning to her previous assignment in NA-12.

Emergency Response Exercise: The Pantex Plant performed a limited-scope emergency response exercise this week. This exercise did not include off-site agencies or entities. Several of the key personnel in the Emergency Operations Center were alternates at previous exercises, or were performing as the alternate for this exercise.

Conduct of Operations. B&W paused explosive moves this week when a type of explosive was found in a bay that was not permitted to contain that type of explosive. The unauthorized explosive had been in the explosives-only bay for approximately one month prior to being discovered. A walk-down was performed of all explosives-only bays within the facility to verify proper staging of explosives. The incident critique was held on July 10, and a Corrective Action-Mistake Proofing is scheduled for next week.

5,000,000 Work Hours Without a Lost Time Injury. B&W celebrated a safety milestone this week.