

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

MEMO TO: Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director
FROM: Tom Spatz, Pantex Site Representative
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending December 28, 2012

Convoy Right-of-Way Technical Safety Requirement (TSR): B&W Pantex submitted a Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) change proposal to eliminate the Convoy Right-of-Way TSR. B&W Pantex submitted the change proposal in response to a corrective action plan that resulted from a TSR violation of this control. B&W Pantex's justification for eliminating the control was that no numeric credit was taken for this TSR control in the DSA. B&W Pantex has specific administrative controls for the convoy speed limit (25 mph) as well as a general Pantex speed limit (24 mph). The Site Representative notes that the DSA requires that the transport trailer be sufficiently robust to withstand a collision up to 30 mph. The change proposal does not specify how this design feature requirement can be protected without the Convoy Right-of-Way TSR. The NNSA Production Office (NPO) is evaluating the proposal.

Power Outage: This week, there was a power outage in a building housing several nuclear facilities. The main breaker to the building tripped on two consecutive nights. B&W Pantex placed all facilities into maintenance mode and established a security fire patrol during the power outages. During the second reset of this breaker, B&W Pantex electricians discovered snow inside the cabinet. The B&W Pantex electricians removed the snow and installed weather stripping to prevent recurrence. The B&W electricians also removed a questionable heater from one of the facilities. B&W Pantex has restored power to the building.

Pantex Annual Emergency Exercise After Action Report: In August, B&W Pantex submitted the after action report for the Annual Pantex Plant Emergency Response Exercise conducted in June 2012. (See reports for 7/13/12 and 8/31/12.) NPO requested that B&W Pantex resubmit the report stating that it did not meet several requirements. NPO's primary disagreement was that the original report rated the exercise as very successful in spite of not meeting four key objectives. NPO also requested that action be taken to improve the timeliness and quality of future reports. Last week, B&W Pantex submitted the revised after action report. The revised report contains a table summarizing all sixty exercise objectives, a more detailed exercise timeline, and a description of the exercise scoring system. In this version, B&W Pantex downgraded the overall performance of the exercise from very successful to marginal.