

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

**MEMO TO:** Steven Stokes, Acting Technical Director  
**FROM:** Thomas Spatz, Pantex Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending February 8, 2013

**Lightning Protection System:** This week, B&W Pantex paused all nuclear material movements inside the Material Access Area (MAA) when a B&W electrical safety inspector discovered five wooden poles that were structurally suspect. The poles are part of the catenary cable lightning protection system. After, the B&W electrical safety inspector determined that the poles were in no immediate danger of falling over; B&W resumed material moves inside the MAA. However, movement through facilities in proximity to the five suspect poles remains paused. The B&W facility manager initiated a work request to install pole enforcers which are steel sleeves that are driven five feet into the ground and extend five feet above ground.

B&W's inspection of these poles stems from an event in January 2008, when winds in excess of 50 mph blew over two 65-foot wood utility poles. The 2008 event result in B&W declaring a potential inadequacy in the documented safety analysis (PISA) and a positive unreviewed safety question (USQ) determination because a utility pole impact hazard had not been analyzed in the documented safety analysis. (See report for 5/15/2009.)

**Potential Inadequacy in the Documented Safety Analysis (PISA):** This week, B&W Pantex declared a PISA when they discovered there was no analysis for a holding fixture used during on-site transportation of one weapon program in the Enhanced Transportation Cart II (ETC II). The holding fixture is part of the load path in the accident scenario where a structural failure results in the drop of the unit from the ETC II. B&W has paused operations that utilize this holding fixture.

**Nuclear Explosive Safety (NES) Master Study:** This week, NA-12 approved the NES master study for the Approved Equipment Program (AEP), Volume 1, Category 1 Electrical Equipment. NA-12 and NNSA Production Office (NPO) concurred with the designation of all the findings as well as the corrective actions taken in response to the urgent NES concern from this master study. (See reports for 11/16/12 and 11/23/12.) NPO sent a letter to B&W Pantex directing them to provide monthly updates on the development of an in-line surge suppressor to resolve the urgent NES concern. NPO also directed B&W to transmit a corrective action plan within sixty days that addresses four other NES deficiencies identified in the report. Finally, NPO directed B&W to provide an evaluation of the master study deliberation topics within sixty days.

**Human Factors:** This week, B&W Pantex transmitted the implementation plan for the Sitewide Safety Analysis Report (SAR), Chapter 13, *Human Factors*. This plan is in response to a letter by NPO in January 2013 directing B&W to develop an implementation plan for Chapter 13. (See report for 1/25/13. Reports for 8/24/12 and 12/21/12 give further background.) B&W's implementation plan lists 29 criteria to be evaluated for adequate implementation of the authorization basis change package related to Chapter 13, prior to performing the Independent Verification Review (IVR). B&W plans to perform the IVR in August 2013.