

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 8, 2013

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

**Technical Safety Requirement (TSR) Violation:** This week, B&W Pantex declared a TSR violation when it was discovered that the functional requirement for a particular tooling combination was not implemented in procedures or practices used on the shop floor. The violation was discovered by a NNSA Production Office (NPO) facility representative (FR) during observations associated with the mass properties facilities federal readiness assessment (RA). During the RA observations, the FR observed the B&W production technicians move a transfer cart containing a large piece tooling (~160 lbs) up to a unit in the assembly stand. The tooling was not secured to the cart, even though fastening brackets were installed on the transfer cart. B&W used a general-use instruction for work on the transfer cart because the work does not involve operations with the nuclear explosive. The general-use instructions did not require the tooling to be fastened to the cart prior to bringing the assembly up to the unit. During the event critique, the B&W authorization basis personnel stated that the seismic, and tripping man, qualification of the tooling was for the tool when it is attached to the transfer cart. B&W declared the TSR violation when they discovered that the functional requirement for this tool (attached to the transfer cart) had not been implemented.

B&W Pantex is preparing a recovery plan which will include an extent of condition review which will be limited to the mass properties facilities. B&W is planning to perform an Implementation Verification Review. The federal RA team has completed observations but has not issued their report.

**Anomalous Unit:** Last week, B&W declared an anomalous unit when an unusual noise was heard during assembly operations. (See report for 3/1/13.) This week, NNSA, B&W, and the Design Agency formed a project team to determine the path forward. The project team met at Pantex and Los Alamos National Laboratory this week and expects to finalize the path forward next week.

**Electro-Static Discharge (ESD) Special Tooling and ESD Credited 35-Account Material:** This week, NPO approved B&W's Evaluation of the Safety of the Situation (ESS) related to the positive USQ determination for credited ESD special tooling and ESD credited 35-account material. (See report for 3/1/2013.) This week, NPO issued the Safety Evaluation Report (SER). B&W's path forward is to revise the affected Documented Safety Analyses and the tooling drawings to clarify the functional requirements and resistance requirements.

There are no compensatory measures associated with the SER. NPO stated in the SER that the worst-case resistance stack up that can be achieved with the current verification process will still allow the ESD environment to perform its required safety function of discharging conductive objects in less than one second, albeit with a reduction in the margin of safety. NPO approved the ESS by noting that the amount of time provided in actual operations in the facility significantly exceeds one second, and that continued operations with the existing controls provides an acceptable degree of operational safety.