

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 30, 2013

**MEMO To:** Steven Stokes, Acting Technical Director  
**FROM:** Thomas Spatz, Pantex Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending August 30, 2013

**Board Staff Activities:** This week, R. Arnold was at the Pantex plant to observe a weapon program training class.

**Issue G Weapon Response:** The Babcock & Wilcox Pantex (B&W) Nuclear Explosives Surety personnel performed a Contractor Nuclear Explosive Safety Change Evaluation on the change in the weapon response summary document from Issue G to Issue H. (See report for 8/23/13.) B&W has completed the Implementation Verification Review, and trained the Production Technicians (PTs) on the compensatory measures outlined in the Justification for Continued Operation. Operations on this weapon program have resumed.

This week, B&W paused operations in one facility when the PTs identified a procedure which did not completely implement one of the compensatory measures. B&W Process Engineering revised the procedure and operations have resumed.

**Fire Penetration Seals:** This week, B&W completed their extent of condition review of suspect newly-installed fire penetration seals (See report for 8/16/13.) and, subsequently, placed approximately fifteen facilities into maintenance mode for deficient fire penetration seals. Most of the deficient seals have small gaps in the caulk surrounding the wall penetrations, or suspect material filling the gaps. B&W is evaluating if the source of the deficiencies is an installation problem or a material problem. B&W's subcontractor is repairing or replacing the deficient fire penetration seals with direct involvement of B&W's Fire Protection engineers. B&W has sent a Recovery Plan for Resolution of the Technical Safety Requirement Violation Declared on a Facility Structure Design Requirement (Fire Penetration Seals), to the NNSA Production Office.

**Conduct of Operations:** There were two conduct of operation events this week. The first event involved B&W Transportation personnel performing moves of nuclear explosives in tractors that were not specifically identified in their procedure. B&W has new approved tractors for movement of nuclear explosives onsite. Although the new tractors had been fully approved, the procedure was not changed to include the new vehicles, which will no longer be identified by license plate number. The second event involved B&W Authorization Basis personnel posting an authorization basis change package as complete before training had been completed on the associated procedure changes. As part of the authorization basis change package, B&W Fire Protection engineers updated the combustible loading document. The procedure that implements those changes was updated, but the training was not completed. Although the combustible stand-off distances remained the same, the specific quantity of materials required to maintain the fire rating was included in the change and personnel were not trained to the new quantities.

**Integrated Program Planning and Execution System (IPRO):** This week, B&W paused all material moves for approximately six hours because the Move Right Program within IPRO would not authorize an assembly move. B&W IPRO personnel performed an upgrade to reconcile the material in the facility with the material IPRO inventory had in the facility before the move could be authorized.