

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 1, 2013

**MEMO To:** Steven Stokes, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Thomas Spatz, Pantex Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending November 1, 2013

**Resumption of Operations:** On Tuesday, Babcock & Wilcox Pantex (B&W) began full resumption of nuclear explosive operations, following the passage of appropriations legislation.

**Formality of Operations:** B&W held an event critique after a Manufacturing Safety Officer person observed a possible Walker/Spotter violation. The Manufacturing Safety Officer was conducting an assessment of operations on a loading dock when he observed a forklift operator insert the tines of the forklift under a container without another forklift driver or walker/spotter being present as required by the Technical Safety Requirement (TSR). B&W's TSR for walker/spotter states that a walker/spotter shall wear a red/orange fluorescent vest to be identifiable and visible to oncoming traffic, observe when forklift tines are inserted into H-gear, shipping containers, pallets or wire baskets with a load, and stop the activity if it threatens to puncture the load or the shipping container. At the event critique, B&W stated that everyone on the loading dock during the unloading of the trailer was trained as a walker/spotter, although there were only three designated walker/spotters for this unloading operation wearing red/orange vests, and two of them were in the ramp area outside the loading dock. There were more than five forklifts on the dock during this operation. B&W decided it was not a TSR violation to insert the tines without a designated walker/spotter wearing a red/orange vest because there were trained walker/spotter personnel in the area, and the requirement for wearing the vest only applies to movement in the ramp where there is oncoming traffic. B&W stated that oncoming traffic applies in the ramps and not in the loading dock. B&W is categorizing this event as a management concern.

**Potential Inadequacy in the Documented Safety Analysis (PISA) Declared:** B&W declared a PISA after B&W Authorization Basis personnel discovered that the Linear Accelerator (LINAC) Safety Analysis Report (SAR) did not identify or evaluate the hazards associated with electromagnetic radiation (EMR) from the LINAC head on the unit during normal operations in the LINAC facility. The existing safety basis has a requirement for lightning standoff of approximately three feet. The B&W Authorization Basis personnel determined that the lightning stand-off distance bounds any hazard associated with EMR from the LINAC head by providing the necessary stand-off distance. B&W declared a negative Unreviewed Safety Question (USQ) determination after determining the hazard was already bounded by other accident scenarios.

**PISA Declared on Vacuum Chamber SAR:** B&W declared a PISA when they discovered the approved Justification for Continued Operation (JCO) for the Issue H weapon response release did not address a fragment impact scenario resulting from a facility piping failure in the Vacuum Chamber SAR. B&W has paused vacuum chamber operations for the one affected weapon program. B&W is performing the USQ determination.