

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 22, 2013

MEMO TO: Steven Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: Thomas Spatz, Pantex Site Representative
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending November 22, 2013

Move Authorization Technical Safety Requirement (TSR) Violation: This week, Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Pantex, LLC (B&W) declared a TSR violation for movement of a tritium reservoir without the appropriate move authorization. B&W Production Technicians (PTs) began moving a tritium reservoir from one facility to a staging facility during a high-explosive move window prior to achieving authorization in the Integrated Program Planning and Execution (IPRO) system. The TSR that was violated is associated with the Move Authorization Specific Administrative Control (SAC) that states that the Pantex Material Move System shall authorize all moves in accordance with a scheduled move window.

Moves are planned in IPRO in a planning screen and then authorized using a different screen, which gives an authorization number. Moves can be planned days in advance, but are authorized immediately before the move is performed. In this event, the PTs planned the move but did not proceed to the authorization screen and receive an authorization number prior to moving the material. If the PTs had requested authorization, the move would have been denied. The material handlers began the move because the PTs had written a number from the planning screen on the required form in place of the authorization number. After the material handler had left, the PTs realized they had not yet received authorization in IPRO to perform the move and the PTs called the material handler back to the original facility, made the appropriate notifications, and paused work.

Water Dripping in Staging Facility: Several weeks ago, B&W identified water dripping from the ceiling of a staging facility. B&W identified four AL-R8 containers with discoloration due to the water splashing onto the containers. B&W transferred the contents of these four containers to different containers and issued a non-conformance report on the containers. Los Alamos National Laboratory sent an Engineering Authorization to B&W instructing them not to remove or introduce any of their components from or to this facility. This week, B&W and Los Alamos National Laboratory had a conference call to resolve the issue. Los Alamos National Laboratory is requesting additional inspection and data on the containers in question. These containers are credited in the Documented Safety Analysis to prevent or mitigate an unacceptable electrical, mechanical, thermal, or chemical insult to its contents.

High Pressure Fire Loop (HPFL) Upgrade: B&W has completed construction of new diesel driven fire pumps and associated water supply tanks, connected the new hardware to the HPFL, and submitted the authorization basis change package to the NNSA Production Office (NPO) for approval. This week, NPO issued the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) approving the changes to the safety basis. NPO identified one condition of approval associated with insufficient detail in three surveillance requirements. NPO will close the condition of approval upon agreement with B&W over the revised surveillance requirements. B&W has performed readiness verification and is working to close all open items. Although not required, B&W is planning to perform a Contractor Readiness Assessment (CRA). The NPO Fire Protection subject matter expert will observe the CRA, since there will be no Federal Readiness Assessment.