

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 10, 2014

MEMO TO: Steven Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: Thomas Spatz, Pantex Site Representative
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending January 10, 2014

Anomalous Unit Nuclear Explosive Safety Change Evaluation (NCE): The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Production Office (NPO) approved the NCE performed in December 2013 for limited operations on the anomalous unit. (See report for 12/20/2013.) The NCE approval authorizes Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Pantex, LLC (B&W) to place the anomalous unit into a transportation configuration, transport the unit to the Linear Accelerator (LINAC) facility, perform radiography, and if the results are normal, transport the unit to a bay for normal disassembly operations. B&W has issued a Manufacturing Standing Order to implement additional requirements to transport the unit. The Nuclear Explosive Safety Study Group (NESSG) recommended B&W take additional contamination swipes prior to transporting the unit. The NESSG reports stated that operations will cease if the swipes reveal external contamination. Also this week, NPO issued the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) approving the Justification for Continued Operation (JCO) for this operation.

High Pressure Fire Loop (HPFL) Electric Pumps: Last week, B&W lost the use of one of the two electric pumps in the HPFL after it produced a loud screeching noise, and experienced unscheduled starts with the second electric pump. (See report for 1/3/2014.) This week, the B&W Emergency Services Dispatch Center (ESDC) reported receiving another unscheduled HPFL electric pump start signal from the same pump that had unscheduled starts last week. As they did last week, B&W Maintenance personnel placed the jockey pump in manual mode, and reset the electric pump. B&W Maintenance personnel are still evaluating the cause of the unscheduled starts but believe the electric pump is starting even though there is sufficient pressure in the system. The electric pump that produced the loud screeching noise is still out of service.

Failure of Ultra-Violet (UV) Flame Detector: B&W Maintenance Division personnel reported that a UV flame detector failed during its semi-annual planned maintenance testing. B&W had entered the appropriate Limiting Conditions for Operation (LCO) to perform the maintenance and remained in the LCO until the detector is replaced. In the *November Nuclear Safety System Performance Indicator* report, B&W informed NPO that they have 42 spare UV detectors for the 426 total UV detectors currently in service.

35-Account Material: On Friday, B&W paused operations in several nuclear explosive operating facilities due to an issue associated with tape in the credited 35-account system. B&W is still evaluating the situation and no details were available at the time of this report.

Nuclear Explosive Operations: This week, while the Site Representative was observing nuclear explosive operations in a facility, B&W Maintenance and Fire Protection personnel entered the facility. They performed an inspection of combustible materials in preparation for planned maintenance that evening. They also determined a fire watch would not be needed for that facility during the planned maintenance.