

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 24, 2014

MEMO TO: Steven Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: Thomas Spatz, Pantex Site Representative
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending January 24, 2014

Technical Safety Requirement (TSR) Violation: Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Pantex, LLC (B&W) declared a TSR violation when a B&W Fire Protection engineer discovered there was no fire damper in the task exhaust duct located in the Special Nuclear Material Component Requalification Facility (SNMCRF). The Fire Protection engineer was performing a facility walkdown of the SNMCRF when he discovered the task exhaust duct had no damper. The fire barrier is credited in the safety basis as a two-hour fire barrier. The task exhaust duct runs between the SNMCRF and an adjacent non-nuclear facility. B&W has implemented compensatory measures to stop work, to eliminate combustibles within 15 feet of the task exhaust, and post signs in the area to prevent personnel from bringing combustibles into the area.

Implementation of Nuclear Explosive Safety (NES) Corrective Action: B&W Nuclear and Explosive Surety personnel were reviewing specific operations in a training bay when they discovered that a NES corrective action was inadequately implemented. B&W personnel identified one instance where the unit was in the work stand in a horizontal or 45° configuration which did not comply with the NES corrective action. B&W immediately initiated a procedure change request to require the unit to be in the vertical position throughout the operation. B&W does not have any ongoing operations on nuclear explosives that would result in the unit being in this configuration and doesn't have any planned for several weeks.