

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 6, 2015

MEMO TO: Steven Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: Thomas Spatz, Pantex Site Representative
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending February 6, 2015

DNFSB Staff at the Pantex Plant: R. Arnold was onsite to provide Site Representative augmentation. J. Mercier was onsite to observe a Nuclear Explosive Safety Change Evaluation (NCE). T. Chapman, J. Deplitch, and M. Helfrich were onsite to observe the emergency response full scale exercise 15-1.

Seismic Event at the Pantex Plant: This week, there was a magnitude 3.1 earthquake near the Pantex Plant, but it was not detected by the onsite seismograph. The earthquake was centered between the city of Amarillo, Texas, and the Pantex plant, at a depth of approximately 2 ½ miles, and lasted approximately seven seconds. Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC (CNS) has one seismograph on site which records data hourly and when triggered by an event with a surface ground acceleration of 0.01g. The seismograph was not triggered by this event. If the seismograph had been triggered, it would have emailed a data file to members of the seismic group in the Facility Engineering Department. The seismograph does not send a signal to the Emergency Services Dispatch Center (ESDC). CNS reported there was no damage and that the earthquake could not be felt by personnel in the operations center.

Conduct of Operations: CNS Quality Assurance Technicians (QATs) paused operations in a radiography facility after they discovered an inconsistency in the type of film used for a radiograph. After further review, CNS determined that the QATs on the previous shift had not used the type of film that was listed in the Nuclear Explosive Operating Procedure (NEOP). Even though the radiograph did not use the film prescribed by the NEOP, CNS determined that there was no safety concern and there was no need to take additional radiographs with the correct film.

Full Scale Exercise 15-1: CNS and the NNSA Production Office (NPO) conducted a full scale exercise that simulated an emergency involving multiple operational emergencies. The exercise did not include the simulated release of nuclear material. CNS and NPO decided not to make public announcements when the exercise started, or when any activities associated with the exercise occurred, to minimize the impact to operations personnel. CNS only notified select personnel by pager when the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated. However, several NPO and CNS personnel that were required to participate, as well as the Site Representative, did not receive a page that the exercise had begun.

Safety Software: NPO issued a letter to CNS requesting them to review and validate the safety software used in the Documented Safety Analysis (DSA) and to validate that the software meets the requirements for safety software defined in DOE O 414.1D, *Quality Assurance*. NPO specifically requested information related to the software quality assurance of newer versions of the DOE Tool Box codes in the DOE Registry and non-Tool Box codes.