

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 27, 2015

**MEMO TO:** Steven Stokes, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Thomas Spatz, Pantex Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending February 27, 2015

### **Combustible Standoff Distance Technical Safety Requirement (TSR) Violation:**

Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC (CNS), performed a UL-certification confirmation test on a portion of task exhaust to confirm it met the required non-combustible design specifications. CNS declared a TSR violation when they discovered that the test failed and that task exhausts were within the TSR standoff distance from thermally sensitive components. CNS paused the use of task exhausts and walked down every nuclear explosive operating facility to verify that the wall-mounted task exhausts met the required combustible standoff distance.

**Pause in Operations due to Weapon Response Validity:** Last Friday, NNSA Air-Delivered Weapons Division (NA-122.3) sent a letter to the NNSA Production Office (NPO) and CNS requesting them to enter new information concerning the Weapon Response Summary Document for one weapon program. NNSA identified a concern with the validity of the weapon responses in the current Weapon Response Summary Document, which was issued in March 2006. After receiving the letter, CNS paused nuclear explosive operations on that program. CNS had not completed processing the Problem Identification and Evaluation form at the time of this report. CNS anticipates receiving an Information Engineering Release (IER) from the Design Agency.

**Positive Unreviewed Safety Question Determination (USQD) for Aerosol Can Electro-Static Discharge (ESD) Scenario:** CNS declared a Potential Inadequacy of the Safety Analysis (PISA) when they discovered that the coating on an aerosol can defeats the personnel bonding control for one weapon program. (See report for 2/20/2015.) This week, CNS upgraded the PISA to a positive USQD due to an increase in the probability for an accident evaluated in the existing safety basis. CNS determined that the positive USQD only affects a specific configuration on one weapon program. CNS continues to pause those operations and is preparing a Justification for Continued Operations (JCO).

**Update on Positive USQD for Anodized Coating ESD Scenario:** In December 2014, CNS declared a PISA, and a positive USQD, when they were notified by the Design Agency that an anodized coating on one component may challenge the dissipative control requirements in the safety basis for one weapon program. (See reports for 12/12/2014, 12/19/2014, and 12/26/2014.) Since then, CNS has submitted a JCO, and NPO issued a Safety Evaluation Report, to perform limited operations on units in the Ultimate User configuration. (See reports for 1/9/2015, 1/16/2015, 1/23/2015, and 1/30/2015.) This week, CNS received an IER from the Design Agency indicating that there would be no change to the existing weapon responses, provided that CNS implement two new personnel bonding steps.

**Pause in Operations due to Work Stand Interference:** CNS has been modifying nuclear explosive operating procedures to raise the work height of assemblies, reducing impacts due to the falling man hazard. When utilizing a revised procedure for the first time in one facility, the Production Technicians had to pause operations due to interference between the upper and lower trunnions when attempting to rotate the assembly in the work stand.