

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 21, 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: H. Waugh and W. White, Pantex Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending December 21, 2001

DNFSB Activity Summary: H. Waugh and W. White were on site all week.

Maintenance Review: A post-start finding from the recent NNSA W78 readiness assessment noted a “lack of compliance with maintenance and calibration procedures for bays and cells was observed during maintenance activities involving site-wide TSR surveillance requirements.” To gain further insight into the potential scope of this problem, the OASO Director tasked the NNSA facility representatives to observe surveillance activities that implement the surveillance requirements in the *Pantex Technical Safety Requirements*.

The results of these maintenance observations were briefed to the OASO Director this week. The observations of the facility representatives validated the finding of the NNSA W78 readiness assessment team. Of the thirteen types of maintenance activities observed, the facility representatives found problems with ten of the activities indicating a history of non-compliance with procedures. OASO intends to forward these observations to BWXT with a request for a corrective action plan addressing the observed deficiencies.

In an indication of heightened sensitivity to procedural compliance issues, personnel performing the required weekly surveillance on the electric and diesel pumps for the high pressure fire loop did not complete the maintenance as originally scheduled on December 16. Fire Department personnel performing the maintenance noted the procedure required verifying the tachometer on the diesel engine as indicating between 1710 and 1800 rpm. Since the analog gauge indications are in 100's of rpm, personnel performing the procedure were unable to verify the speed within a range of 90 rpm. The procedure was rewritten to require verification the tachometer indicates a speed of 1700 to 1800 rpm. Fire Department personnel successfully performed the revised procedure on December 18. [II.A]

Authorization Basis Upgrade Program Plan: Earlier this month, BWXT submitted a revision to the existing *Authorization Basis Upgrade Program Plan* to OASO for approval. This was a revision of the August 2001 version of the plan that had incorporated the latest IWAP milestones. An even earlier revision of the plan (authored by the previous Pantex contractor) was submitted by DOE to the Board in August 2000 as a deliverable under Recommendation 98-2. Some of the changes include the following (dates are for submission of modules to NNSA):

- c A delay in the development of the Paint Bay SAR module and the LINAC SAR module as a result of efforts required to finalize bases for interim operation of the computed tomography facility and the paint bay. The revised date for the Paint Bay SAR module is now the first quarter of FY03. Completion of the Paint Bay module was scheduled for the third quarter of FY02 in the plan originally submitted to the Board.
- c A delay in the schedule for Phase I of the Transportation SAR module as a result of “delays in receiving the weapon responses from the Design Agencies (scheduled 2/6/01, but received 11/07/01).” The final date for Phase I (full-up configurations only) of the Transportation SAR module is now January 2002. The final date for Phases II and III (transportation of partial configurations and nuclear material) is now February 2003. The date, as originally submitted to the Board, for completion of the entire Transportation module was September 2001.
- c The date for completion of the Bays and Cells SAR module is now February 2002. In the plan originally submitted to the Board, the completion date for the Bays module was December 2000 and the completion date for the Cells module was March 2001. [II.A]