

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 25, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: H. Waugh and W. White, Pantex Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending August 25, 2000

DNFSB Activity Summary: H. Waugh was on site all week. W. White was off site all week. L. McGrew was on site Monday through Friday to observe the W76 Nuclear Explosive Safety Study (NESS).

W76 D&I Program: The W76 NESS concluded this week with the preparation of the first draft of the final report. Discussion of more than three dozen safety-related issues resulted in four pre-start and eleven post-start findings. The most important issues focused on the lightning protection in the bays and cells, noting several violations of the existing standards when AC current is applied to test and evaluation equipment. This prompted a review of the surety of the Faraday Cage protection for the several warhead configurations possible during D&I operations. Another broad topic involved the tooling, much of which had been redesigned to meet SS21 criteria. LANL provided an exhaustive study of the effects of these designs on one point safety. The tooling was also reviewed to verify compliance with DOE's earthquake acceleration criteria. It was observed that there is an inconsistent use of these criteria in the various facilities. It was found that using the safety rules and guidance provided, the authorization basis elements were carried into the operating procedures and authorization basis control documents for this program.^[III.A]

Pit Thermal Meeting: The regular monthly Pit Thermal Meeting was held on Thursday. It was reported that two magazines in Zone 4 have now been reconfigured with sealed insert packages. Progress is also being made in the conversion from hard-wired to wireless temperature reporting from the Zone 4 magazines. The test plan for monitoring temperatures in Building 12-116, including deliberately turning off the air conditioning for several days, is near completion. It is scheduled to be delivered to DOE/AAO for approval on September 11.^[III.A]

W80 CD Test: Preparations for the W80 CD Test are proceeding and the cell required for performance of the CD is available. The critical path to perform the CD Test requires completing required changes to authorization basis documents. The MHC Authorization Basis Change Control Committee and the Hazard Analysis Group met on Tuesday to review the draft JCO. They had comments, and the MHC Authorization Basis Staff is currently revising the JCO to include those comments. The current schedule calls for the revised JCO to be submitted to the Authorization Basis Change Control Committee such that it can be approved and submitted to DOE/AAO for approval by August 31.