

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 31, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: T. Dwyer and H. Waugh, Pantex Site Representatives

SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending January 02, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: Harry Waugh and Timothy Dwyer were on site Monday through Wednesday.

W79 Cell SIRR: The first W79 Cell Single Internal Readiness Review (SIRR) was conducted from June 18-26, 1997. Due to the significant number of prestart findings reported, a “confirmatory review” (SIRR Supplement) was held October 2-4, 1997, just prior to the first W79 Type 6B dissolution run. This SIRR resulted in 2 prestart findings, as well as 1 post-start finding and 2 observations. The Type 6B dissolution also revealed additional technical issues that required resolution. M&H has now completed a W79 Cell SIRR, which was very tightly focused on evaluating the changes made to the W79 dissolution process to resolve the issues raised by the previous SIRRs and the first Type 6B run. PTs specifically demonstrated use of the new Wing Displacement tool and Girdle Removal tool; the SIRR team also reviewed physical changes to the ventilation and DMSO systems. 6 prestart findings have been reported, including lack of approval for the (changed) authorization basis, lack of required hardware, lack of a shift turnover process (this is now a 3-shift operation), and safety concerns that were expressed by the PTs. Additionally, 3 post-start findings and 5 observations have been reported. The Project Team still intends to conduct the second W79 Type 6B dissolution commencing Monday, January 5th.

W84 D&I Program: The W84 Dismantlement & Inspection Program is gearing up to resume operation. The program was discontinued last year, one day before start-up, due to the shutdown of the LINAC. Contingency procedures have yet to be developed for two field-repair units, but it is intended that they be worked last, so AAO has directed that the D&I process not be held up for the other eight units (six full, two partial) associated with this program.

Dynamic Balancer: On Monday, M&H notified AAO that they were ready to resume Dynamic Balancing of W78 High Fidelity JTAs. The addition of this type of unit to the list of authorized Dynamic Balancer activities is predicated on several specific criteria:

- Balancing will be conducted using a SNL-approved W62 fixture, which does not have any welded joints.
- A nuclear explosive engineering procedure (NEEP) has been issued with Design Agency approval, identifying by serial number the two JTAs to be authorized.
- A conditional QER has been issued.

Attachment

Upcoming Pantex Events:

January 5-6 -- W79 Type 6B (unit #2) Dissolution [target date]

January 8-9 -- W79 Project Team/HATT Meeting to finalize NEHA [@ LLNL]

January 13 -- Quarterly NMO Program Meeting

January 14 -- W87 LEP Meeting

January 14 -- W87 ASSET (Graded SS-21) Meeting

January 14 -- Quarterly Production Meeting

January ?? -- Secretary of Energy visit [date TBD]**

January 23 -- W56 Project Team Meeting

February 3 -- W79 NESS starts

February 24-March 6 -- B61-11 NESE

March 9-27-- NES Electrical Tester Master Study completion

March 16 -- W79 FDU

[unknown] -- W56 SIRR [delayed due to resource conflict w/ W79]

NOTES: ** highlights events which are new listings or for which schedule has changed