

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 16, 1998

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 16, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: Harry Waugh and Timothy Dwyer were on site all week.

W79 Dismantlement Program: W79 FDU has slipped one month, to April 20th, 1998. In part, this is due to the realization that the NESSG must have sufficient time to review the 6,500 page Single Integrated Input Document (SIID). The NESS adequacy review is still scheduled for February 3rd-6th, but the NESS schedule has been revised to February 23rd-March 27th. In a further complication, the present version of the NEHA signed out by LLNL includes a *disclaimer* regarding the technical accuracy of the document. DOE-AL has deemed this unacceptable.

Fire Protection: Corrective actions to address last week's loss of control of the High Pressure Fire Loop (HPFL), which is a Critical Safety System, continued throughout the week. In response to an AAO letter, M&H has identified eleven standing impairments to the HPFL. Three are of particular interest: (1) 15-24 Pump Station (combined suction line crack) -- this leaves the 15-25 Pump Station as the sole source of water for the HPFL through at least January 26th; (2) 12-117 Loading Dock riser (leak) -- this takes the Loading Dock out of service until repairs are effected (date TBD); (3) southern HPFL feed to 12-98 Cells 1 and 3 (pipe rupture) -- this forces these cells to be placed in Repair Mode until the condition is corrected (estimated March 13th) or M&H submits and AAO approves specific compensatory measures. [Note that this may impact W79 Dismantlement operations.]

NESEs: Projected schedules for Nuclear Explosive Safety Evaluations (NESEs) were presented at the AAO Quarterly Production Meeting. DOE is planning on conducting NESEs, instead of Nuclear Explosive Safety Studies (NESSs), for the B61-11 Program (April 6th-7th), the new 12-104A Paint Bay, and the new PT-4174 Tester. Of note, the PT-4174 NESE will consider placing this tester on the MTL and using it in the W87 and W88 Programs (under a revalidated and current NESS, respectively), as well as the W62 Program (for which the NESS has expired).

Pit Issues: Recent reports of efforts to develop the draft DOE-AL Integrated Pit Program Plan (as discussed with the Board during their visit to Pantex) indicate that the January 30th delivery date may be in jeopardy. It has also been reported that the selection date for the modified AL-R8 design has been deferred another month. Meanwhile, the AT-400A Pit Repackaging Line remains shutdown. Results of ultrasonic testing this week have led to questions regarding the applicability of the Boiler/Pressure Vessel Code weld inspection standard used to date.

Public Health Assessment: A public health assessment compiled by the U.S. Public Health Service, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry was released for public comment (comment period closes January 30th). The report states that the Pantex Plant "does not pose a threat to public health from any site release at this time." This report was originally released to the Pantex Plant Citizens Advisory Board for technical comment in June 1997.

Attachment

Upcoming Pantex Events:

January 19 -- W84 Disassembly starts [two physics packages]**

January 20-23 -- W79 WR Cell SIRR

January 20-23 -- Ad Hoc Working Group (HOCWOG) Meetings [U.S./U.K.]**

January 21 -- W87 LEP Meeting

January 22 -- Secretary of Energy visit**

January 23 -- W56 Project Team Meeting

January 26 -- W84 WR Disassembly starts (6 units)**

January 26 -- Pantex Site Seismic Requalification Meeting w/ DP-3**

January 27 -- BIO Upgrade Lightning Protection Project Team Meeting w/ DP-3**

January 29 -- W87 ASSET (Graded SS-21) Executive Management Team Meeting

February 3-6 -- W79 NESS SIID validation**

February 23-March 27 -- W79 NESS**

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

April 6-7 -- B61-11 NESE**

April 20 -- 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