

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 20, 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 February 20, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: Harry Waugh and Timothy Dwyer were on site Tuesday through Friday. Dan Burnfield and Farid Bamdad were on site Thursday and Friday.

Lightning Issues: In the last two weeks, the Site Representatives have gathered two more data points regarding lightning safety at the Pantex site. During the B61-11 Single Integrated Readiness Review (SIRR) last week, it was observed that 1) lightning warnings had been in effect but the PTs and their supervisor were not aware of it; 2) the PTs and their supervisor were not sure of the actions allowed/required during lightning warnings; and 3) the documentation delineating the allowed/required actions (once obtained by the supervisor) was contradictory. This week, a full-up unit (W84) was transported during lightning warnings despite an operative plant standard that prohibits such transportation. This occurred because 1) some of the participants did not know lightning warnings were in effect; and 2) two of the participants knew lightning warnings were in effect but did not know a plant standard prohibited transportation of this unit. Once again site documentation provided conflicting direction -- at least six authoritative directives, including Facility Manager Standing Orders, Manufacturing Division Standing Orders, Engineering Instructions (EIs), Plant Technical Procedures, and Plant Standards, individually and in many cases contradictorily, address actions allowed/required during lightning warnings. Further details are available in Occurrence Report ALO-AO-MHSM-PANTEX-1998-008.

Target Levels of Controls: This week, all three Design Agencies, AAO, and M&H met to review progress on the (post-start) path forward for the Dynamic Balancer, for which the current authorization basis expires March 31st. During the course of the meeting, an attempt was made to apply the *Target Levels of Controls for Nuclear Explosive Operations at Pantex* to Dynamic Balancer operations, reportedly per the direction of DP-3. These Target Levels are neither approved nor issued under any authoritative document, although DOE has indicated they will be incorporated into the HAR Handbook. The attempt to apply these Target Levels to the Dynamic Balancer revealed that significant confusion, as well as severe disagreement, exists regarding both the design and use of the Target Levels.

BIO Upgrade Program: Board staff conducted a review of the Pantex program to upgrade the nuclear explosives on-site movement module of the Basis for Interim Operations (BIO). This review was part of a broader effort to evaluate on-site movement of nuclear and radiological material across the weapons complex (Board staff lead: Wayne Andrews). Little progress has been made since the program was briefed to DP-3 last December in Albuquerque. Current schedules project completion of this portion of the BIO Upgrade Program by the end of this fiscal year. A DOE-AL/AAO/M&H project team has been assigned; four task teams have also been created to support this project. The hazard analysis task team has walked down the ramps and corridors to determine the most egregious hazards. The project team has not yet developed a detailed project plan, although they expect to have one by the beginning of March.

Attachment
Upcoming Pantex Events:

February 23-March 27 -- W79 NESS

March 4 -- Lightning Protection Working Group meeting w/ DP-3/20 [@ DOE-AL]**

March 5 -- Dynamic Balancer meeting w/ DP-3/20 [@ DOE-AL]**

March 9-20 -- Building 12-116 Management Self-Assessment (MSA)

March 13 -- W76 HATT walkthroughs complete

March 20 -- B61-11 NESE SIID validation [adequacy review]

March 24 -- W87 ASSET Program Final Management Team Review

March 24-25 -- B83 Provisioning and Program Review

March 25 -- Major Sitewide Emergency Exercise**

March 30-April 9 -- Building 12-116 Contractor ORR

April 7-17 -- B61-11 NESE

April 8 -- Quarterly Production Meeting

April ?? -- W56 SIRR**

April 20 -- W79 FDU

April 20 -- W76 SIRR commences

April 20-May 1 -- Building 12-116 DOE ORR

April 28-May1 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study SIID validation [adequacy review]

May 1 -- Building 12-116 startup

May 5-8 -- W56 NESS SIID validation [adequacy review]

May 18-June 14 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study

June 2-July 10 -- W56 NESS

June 9 -- W76 HAR and ABCD complete

June 9-19 -- W62 NES Revalidation

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