

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 27, 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 March 27, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: Harry Waugh and Timothy Dwyer were on site all week. Wayne Andrews and Jack Deplitch were on site all week for the W79 Dismantlement NESS.

W79 Dismantlement Program: The W79 Dismantlement Program NESS continued this week, concentrating on NESSG deliberations and presentations on topics such as the DMSO hot water system and criteria for seismic events. Although the hot water system equipment is not qualified, the number of IEEE Standard-approved controls may make the system acceptable to the NESSG. The DOE position regarding seismic criteria is that seismic evaluations based on the (potentially) revised site performance criteria will be treated as poststart issues. NESSG deliberations will continue next week. Several potential prestart findings have already been identified in the following areas: control of combustible materials; Explosive Safety Manual and National Electric Code wiring/electrical equipment requirements; radiological safety personnel training and equipment; NEHA deficiencies; response of the rocket motor to fire, lightning isolation devices; likelihood of reducing human error; seismic evaluation; and flammability of DMSO in abnormal environments. The W79 Project Team has indicated that it will probably request approval to proceed based on the current flammability and seismic evaluations/controls regardless of the final NESS findings and recommendations.

W87 ASSET Program: The W87 Advanced SS-21 Enhancement Task (ASSET) Program Senior Management Team Review originally scheduled for this week was canceled at the last moment. Instead, a working group led by DOE-AL/WPD informally convened to: 1) better define the W87 ASSET Program, 2) assess progress to date, and 3) identify further work to be accomplished. Given the inherent safety features and relatively recent production of the W87, DOE-AL has assigned it a relatively low priority for full SS-21 implementation. The objectives of the ASSET Program are to enhance near-term process safety, document the SS-21-like safety attributes already incorporated into the W87 program, and take an incremental step toward full SS-21 implementation. The ASSET Program will generate two products: a Preliminary Hazards Assessment (PHA), and a draft Activities Based Control Document (ABCD) that will capture all controls to be implemented for the W87 Life Extension Program, within the next 6 weeks.

Site-wide Emergency Exercise: Pantex conducted an emergency preparedness exercise on Wednesday afternoon. The exercise scenario was designed for the security/protective force to become the controlling entity of the on-scene response. DOE-HQ, DOE-AL, and other federal, state, and county agencies (including the FBI) participated. Several aspects of the exercise were satisfactory, but deficiencies were noted, most notably with regard to radiological control actions, the lack of planning for a site response to a potential chemical or biological terrorist attack, and the conduct of the exercise itself. Of particular concern was the fact that at the exercise critique, several events identified as deficiencies by Board staff observers were singled out as exemplary by exercise evaluators or participants.

Attachment
Upcoming Pantex Events:

Now-April 3 -- W79 NESS [in progress]

Now-April 9 -- Building 12-116 Management Self-Assessment (MSA) [in progress]**

March 31 -- W56 Bay MSA begins

April 2 -- W79 Workstation Flammability Issues Meeting w/ DP-3 (@ DOE-AL)**

April 7-17 -- B61-11 NES UNESQD**

April 7-8 -- NMO Quarterly Meeting/Quarterly Production Meeting

April 13-16 -- W56 SIRR

April 14-April 9 -- Building 12-116 Contractor ORR**

April 20 -- W79 FDU

April 20 -- W76 SIRR commences

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

April 28-May 1 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study SIID validation [adequacy review]

May 1 -- Building 12-116 startup

May 4-8 -- JOWOG [possibly including lightning workshop]

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