

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 17, 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 April 17, 1998

**DNFSB Activity Summary:** Harry Waugh was on site all week. Timothy Dwyer was on site Monday and Wednesday through Friday, and at DOE-AL on Tuesday. James McConnell, David Grover, and Richard Tontodonato were on site Monday to review pit issues. Matthew Forsbacka and Lawrence Zull were on site Monday through Friday observing the B61-11 NESE.

**Pit Issues:** DOE-HQ, DOE-AL, and the Design Agencies provided an update on the Integrated Pit Storage Program Plan (IPSP) in Albuquerque on Tuesday. Design Agency input on which pits/pit families must be stored in which pit containers is scheduled to be provided in a meeting next Friday. It is possible that some pit families will not be recommended for storage, but rather for immediate shipment to LANL. The systems engineering effort for IPSP is still in the information gathering stage, with a projected timeline 6 months long, although DOE-AL still intends to publish IPSP by May 31<sup>st</sup>. At present, IPSP will only address pit storage at Pantex; DOE-AL is refusing to include other pit storage facilities in the complex in this integrated effort.

**DOE Orders 452.1A and 452.2A:** DOE-AL has initiated a project under WPD (Glass) that is aimed at revitalizing efforts to establish a viable Integrated Safety Process. As one of the first steps in this effort, DOE-AL is driving toward inclusion of DOE Orders 452.1A and 452.2A in the M&H contract; this was the subject of the Board's letter to the Secretary dated December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**B61-11 NESE:** The DOE-AL Nuclear Explosive Safety Evaluation (NESE) of the B61-11 Disassembly and Inspection (D&I) Program commenced this week. Because the Board staff and DOE-AL remain at an impasse regarding the applicability of the NESE concept, DOE-AL directed the NESE team to include in their deliberations seven USQ-like questions raised by the Board staff (see Twining memorandum dated April 7<sup>th</sup>). This week's NESE activities focused on disassembly operations: Design Agency inputs on B61-11 system design/variance from B61-7; M&H step-by-step descriptions; as well as demonstrations of the disassembly process. The NESE appeared to be comprehensively covering the system design and D&I processes. One issue of generic interest became apparent when the Board staff questioned the basis for Immediate Action Procedures (IAPs) that apply to the entire family of B61 weapons. Although the IAPs appear sound, no documentation was available to provide the original validating analyses.

**W79 Dismantlement Program:** The W79 Project Team has developed an action plan to resolve open items remaining from the recently completed reviews (i.e., NESS, Safety Evaluation, Readiness Assessment, and DP-3 (Stello)). Three key assumptions in this action plan are that DOE-AL and DP-20 will agree to defer the NESS findings concerning seismic, lightning protection, and National Electric Code (NEC) compliance issues from the pre-start to the post-start category. The project team has also assumed DOE-AL will allow use of the Activity Based Controls Document (ABCD) as the vehicle for DOE approval of safety basis changes, independent of the submission of changes to the Pantex Basis for Interim Operations (BIO) and Critical Safety Systems Manual (CSSM). Note that this proposal is contrary to recent DOE-AL direction (Carlson memorandum dated March 10<sup>th</sup>) that requires all ABCD, BIO, and CSSM be approved by DOE prior to the start of independent reviews.

**Attachment  
Upcoming Pantex Events:**

Now-April 24 -- B61-11 NESE [in progress]

April 20-May 2 -- Building 12-116 Contractor ORR

April 20 -- W76 SIRR commences

April 21 -- Bldg 12-104A Paint Bay Milestone 0/1 Meeting

April 23 -- Pit Thermal Meeting

April 27-May 1 -- W56 SIRR\*\*

May 4-8 -- JOWOG [no longer including lightning workshop]\*\*

May 5 -- Bldg 12-104A Paint Bay Milestone 2 Meeting

May 11-22 -- Building 12-116 DOE ORR [probably will slip one week]

May 15 -- W79 FDU\*\*

June 1 -- Building 12-116 startup [probably will slip one week]

June 3 -- W87 ASSET Final Management Team Review

??Jun?? -- W56 NESS SIID validation [adequacy review]

June 9-19 -- W62 NES Revalidation

June 29-July 31 -- W56 NESS

July 9-13 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study SIID validation [adequacy review]\*\*

July 30-August 26 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study\*\*

???? -- W76 HAR and ABCD complete

August 28 -- Bldg 12-104A Paint Bay MSA commences

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