

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 24, 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 24, 1998

**DNFSB Activity Summary:** Harry Waugh and Timothy Dwyer were on site all week. Dan Burnfield was on site Monday and Tuesday observing the Transportation BIO Upgrade Team.

**B61-11 NESE:** The DOE-AL Nuclear Explosive Safety Evaluation (NESE) of the B61-11 Disassembly and Inspection (D&I) Program concluded on Friday. This week's NESE activities focused on assembly operations, demonstrations of the intrasite transportation process, deliberations, and report writing. The NESE Team had no findings requiring recommendations. Four prestart issues and two post-start issues were raised, but corrective actions were specified or agreed upon. The NESE Team also deliberated on the seven USQ-like questions raised by the Board staff (see Twining memorandum dated April 7<sup>th</sup>). All seven questions were answered "No." Subsequent discussions focusing on the utility of the questions resulted in a conclusion that:

- (1) they were not useful to the NESE team, which had already convened and concluded their evaluation of the B61-11; and
- (2) the questions may not have been answerable eleven months ago (at the time it was determined that the NESE process would be used on the B61-11), when the necessary input documents, briefings, and demonstrations did not yet exist.

The results of the NESE Team deliberations will be used as input to a NESE Working Group scheduled to meet May 7<sup>th</sup> in Albuquerque. The participants in this working group, including M&H, AAO, DOE-AL, Design Agency, DOE-HQ, and Board staff, will attempt to forge a consensus regarding the NESE concept and its applicability in the weapons complex.

**Building 12-64:** On Wednesday, DOE, M&H, and the Board staff continued discussions to estimate the margin available above dead load for the frangible roofs in Building 12-64. DOE, M&H and their consultants have conducted additional evaluations to support their conclusion that the roofs have adequate static margin for the expected duration of the W69 dismantlement campaign. (These evaluations employed an ANSYS<sup>®</sup> model that relies on initial live loading, during overburden placement, and subsequent creep to explain observed conditions.) Crack monitoring measures were also discussed, although details remain to be developed. Extreme transient loads (tornado) and appurtenance anchorages may still be the limiting structural factors with regard to long-term use of these bays. A summary Board staff report is being drafted.

**Pit Issues:** The Pit Thermal Group held its regular monthly meeting Thursday. It appears that the group will become much more productive again with the return of Robert Bailey, LLNL, to active participation. Major discussion topics included details of pit loading and pit temperature instrumentation in Building 12-116, and loading requirements for pits packaged in AL-R8 Sealed Inserts. Four DOE-AL representatives (one on loan from SNL), 3 more than usual, attended.

**W84 D&I Program:** Several SNL-directed attempts to alleviate PAL problems associated with 2 W84s were unsuccessful. AAO/M&H decided to repackage the units and await further Design Agency evaluation of the problem. In the meantime, a NESS extension will be requested.

**Attachment**  
**Upcoming Pantex Events:**

Now-May 2 -- Building 12-116 Contractor ORR [in progress]

April 28-30 -- Biannual National DOE Decommissioning HQ/Field Liaison Group

April 30 -- W79 Project Team Meeting w/ Glass/Rider [Ness finding resolution]\*\*

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

May 4 -- W79 Project Team Meeting w/ Ives/Twining [Ness finding resolution]\*\*

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

May 7 -- NESE Working Group meeting (@ DOE-AL)\*\*

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 1-5?? -- W56 SIRR\*\*

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