

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 11, 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 September 11, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: H. Waugh was on site all week. T. Dwyer attended the SMT meeting at DOE-AL on Tuesday, and was on site the rest of the week. D. Grover was on site Tuesday thru Thursday for the Sealed Insert Program Review.

ISMS Verification Review: The site ISMS Verification Review closeout meeting has been postponed again -- to September 15th. Part of this delay has been attributed to preparing briefing materials of sufficient quality to use during the Board's public meeting of September 22nd.

Pit Issues: An AL-R8 Sealed Insert (SI) Program Review and a Pit Surveillance Meeting were held at Pantex. Neither meeting was encouraging. Data from the SI review indicated that last month's attempted independent final SI design review is now considered a conceptual design review. M&H has not yet finalized the comprehensive list of SI requirements; additions to the list continue to be identified. However, no true final design review is planned. Several potential SI start-up problems were also identified. Surprisingly, DOE-AL personnel driving completion of the Integrated Pit Storage Program Plan (IPSPP) were unaware of them, raising concerns that the IPSPP remains incomplete. DOE-AL also indicated that planned IPSPP delivery to the Board (October 1st) will be deferred in light of the August 26th Board letter on Building 12-116.

DOE-AL WSD led the Pit Surveillance Meeting, directed toward establishing a surveillance plan for pits in storage (in addition to the current stockpile surveillance plan). LLNL personnel were not present; the lead LANL surveillance expert was also missing. IPSPP personnel did attend, apparently to obtain input for IPSPP. However, only a rudimentary beginning was made.

NES Electrical Tester Master Study Part II: The Master Study concluded this week. No pre-start recommendations were made. A potential issue involving possible deliberate unauthorized acts was eventually tabled, as the NESS Group concluded that an existing W69-specific NESS recommendation already addressed this area. The full Master Study report has not yet been released; a copy will be obtained for Board staff review.

Integrated Weapons Activity Plan (IWAP): The DOE-AL Standing Management Team (SMT) met Tuesday to discuss progress and create guidance for the weapons program Project Teams constructing their individual parts of an IWAP that encompasses the next 5 years. Each team must include 2 scenarios in their planning: 1] achieve full SS-21 compliance (including, for conventional HE systems, use of a single workstand to minimize lifts), assuming *their* weapons program is the top priority in the complex; 2] achieve graded SS-21 compliance (defined as the minimum set of changes required to assure safe operation) assuming *their* weapons program is the lowest priority in the complex (e.g., a unfunded Requirement Over Target (ROT)).