

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 25, 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 December 25, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: H. Waugh and T. Dwyer were on site Monday through Wednesday. The office was closed Thursday and Friday (Christmas). There will be no Pantex Plant Activity Report filed next week (December 28, 1998 - January 1, 1999).

W87 Life Extension Program (LEP): Fallout from the shortcomings discovered during last week's W87 LEP SIRR, and the incomplete status of the HAR and ABCD, were brought to a head in a meeting between the Project Team, AAO, and DOE-AL WPD personnel. All parties have acknowledged that the W87 SIRR started prematurely. However, schedule pressure to meet the February 26th FPU deadline is driving DOE to consider allowing the LEP assembly process to be started prior to completion of the HAR and ABCD and implementation of the control set derived therefrom. [Of note, it is not apparent that failure to meet the FPU deadline would jeopardize the actual delivery commitment to the military.] DOE would then direct the SIRR team to remove HAR/ABCD-related findings from their report; HAR/ABCD issues would be dealt with in a later readiness assessment focusing specifically upon phasing in the new control set for the existing W87 D&I and new W87 LEP processes.

W62 D&I Program Hazard Analysis: The W62 D&I Program Hazard Analysis Task Team, Project Team, and Safety Basis Review Team Lead met with DOE-AL, AAO, and M&H senior management Tuesday to try and air their differences and agree on a path forward to complete the W62 HAR and ABCD. It was agreed to let the W62 hazard analysis run its course without attempting to force-fit the new methods being advocated by DOE-AL. Instead, the next existing process hazard analysis will serve as the test of the new methods. It was decided that the W88 program will be up next, instead of the B61 program.

Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility (PDCF): Tuesday, the Secretary of Energy announced that the PDCF would be sited at SRS, not at Pantex.