

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 1, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: T. Dwyer and H. Waugh, Pantex Site Representatives

SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for the Week Ending August 1, 1997

DNFSB Activity Summary: Timothy Dwyer was on site all week. Harry Waugh was on leave all week. Farid Bamdad was on site on Thursday to attend meetings on the Pantex Integrated Safety Basis and the Dynamic Balancer.

Pit Thermal Issues: M&H has responded to the DOE-AL NESD memorandum specifying maximum allowable ambient temperatures for certain pit types. Eight standing orders, engineering instructions, and technical procedure change requests document implementation of the controls to meet the new maximums. However, M&H has requested clarification of the maximums with regard to short term transients, such as would be experienced during the time a unit is moved between facilities, through loading docks/ramps in which temperatures are neither controlled nor monitored. In the interim, to avoid causing a suspension of pit shipment from RFETS to Pantex, an engineering instruction has been implemented that requires manual temperature measurements along any prospective Type 83/93 movement route before unit movement commences.

Lightning Protection: To verify that the SNL-recommended Faraday cage configuration has been met, DOE-AAO Facility Representatives are conducting a 100% inspection of bonding of penetrations into active bays and cells. However, it has been discovered (subsequently verified by SNL direct measurements) that the 12-44 cells have no connectivity between wall rebar and floor wire mesh. Full implications of this configuration will not be known until SNL completes modeling and data reduction. In the interim, operations in 12-44 cells are being conducted under SNL-recommended stand-off distances of 51 inches from all cell walls, penetrations, and movable conductors (i.e., tool carts, transport carts, etc.) during lightning warnings. The W69 procedure has been modified to allow operations to continue under these constraints, but M&H is having significant difficulty designing a work-around for other programs in 12-44 cells (e.g., W76 D&I).

Integrated Safety Basis (ISB): DOE-AAO has upgraded the priority of site efforts to institute an ISB for nuclear and nuclear explosive operations, establishing a full-time DOE-AAO-led project team. Don Brunell has been temporarily relieved of his Assistant Manager duties to head this effort full time. At the DOE-AL Integrated Schedule meeting (next Thursday), DOE-AAO intends to push to have cost and schedule commitments for this effort formally included.

AT-400A ORR: The AT-400A Pit Repackaging DOE ORR is nearly complete; outbriefing is expected early next week. The ORR team has potentially identified five prestart findings and fourteen poststart findings, with several more issues yet to be categorized. The most difficult (potential) finding to resolve involves whether or not to require operators to use leaded gloves for certain steps. While such a requirement reduces extremity exposures, it increases whole body dose (procedure run time increases), generates mixed waste, and hinders operator dexterity.

Attachment

Upcoming Pantex Events:

[in progress] -- DOE AT-400A ORR

[in progress] -- W56 Dismantlement Demo for HATT

August 11 -- W87 SEP starts

August 11–15 -- Major Sitewide Emergency Exercise [event to occur August 13]

August 11–15 -- W56 project team and SE Validation

August 13 -- W78 SS-21 Milestone I Meeting

August 22 -- Dynamic Balancer IRT**

August 29 -- Dynamic Balancer startup**

September 15-26 -- W56 Single Integrated Internal Review**

October 7 -- SNL Institutional Operational Issues and Initiatives Meeting (@ SNL)

October 27 -- W56 Milestone 3

NOTE: ** highlights events for which schedule has changed