

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 15, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

FROM: Harry Waugh, Pantex Site Representative

SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending August 15, 1997.

1. DNFSB Activity Summary: Harry Waugh was on site all week. Tim Dwyer is on Military Leave until August 25. Jay DeLoach was on-site to observe the W87 SEP and W78 Milestone I meeting. Jack Deplitch and Dudley Thompson observed the Annual Emergency Preparedness drill. Chip Martin attended the Dynamic Balancer Management Team review.

2. New Issues:

- a. W87 SEP Assembly: The Safety Evaluation for Production (SEP) for the W87 Cycle 11 Assembly was observed this week. The assembly of a W87 JTA was conducted in professional manner with no significant discrepancies. The procedures and tooling were in very good condition and the process flowed very smoothly. There were no pre-start issues identified by the SE Team. One item noted by the DNFSB staff was the factor of two difference in the posted Mason & Hanger weapon configuration expected exposure rate for a bare pit (lower) and the LLNL-provided intrinsic radiation data for a bare pit (higher). This discrepancy was passed on to DOE AAO, M&H, and LLNL for resolution and subsequently it was listed as one of four post-starts that will appear in the Conditional Safety Evaluation Release (SER). In addition to the post-starts there were twelve enhancements noted.

3. Follow-Up Issues:

- a. Radiological Control Issue: An investigation has been initiated to determine the circumstances surrounding an abnormally high (850 mrem) reading found on a production technician's dosimeter. All information obtained to date indicates that the dosimeter saw the exposure reported but that the production technician did not.
- b. Dynamic Balancer Management Team Review: The Dynamic Balancer Restart Team presented the results of their efforts to a management team from DOE/AL and DOE/AAO. Their response was generally favorable. Chip Martin attended this meeting and will be reporting in more detail.

Attachment
Upcoming Pantex Events

- a. August 21 - ABCD Training Course for DOE personnel
- b. August 27 - W78 Detailed Tooling Design Brief**
- c. August 28 - W76 Detailed Tooling Design Brief**
- d. September 2 - Dynamic Balancer Startup (Target)
- e. September 22-23 - W79 Final Project Team Walkdown **
- f. September 24-25 - W79 SIIR Confirmative Review**
- g. September 26 - W79 Type 6B Startup
- h. October 27 - W56 Milestone 3 Meeting

NOTE: ** Events for which schedule has changed