

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 29, 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 29, 1997

DNFSB Activity Summary: Timothy Dwyer and Harry Waugh were on site all week.

AT-400A Pit Repackaging: The first AT-400A Pit Repackaging was completed Monday. Of note, the pit serial number identification problem found upon pulling the initial pit led to the discovery that three pits packaged on the same day by the same crew had been mislabeled (out of four done that day). M&H continues to argue that this is not a reportable event.

Continuing Lightning Protection Issues: In *both* 12-60 and 12-44, it has been found that floors are isolated from the wall rebar. SNL data taken three weeks ago to measure 12-44 lightning susceptibility *in situ* is now considered suspect and may be retaken. In 12-64, which has a cantilevered roof system, the fact that the ceiling rebar is not continuous through the centerline has led to concerns that the SNL Faraday cage model did not account for this anomaly.

Dynamic Balancer: Efforts to restart the Dynamic Balancer are proceeding under heavy (internal) schedule pressure and workloads. An internal review is currently underway: the existing W87 NEOP walk-thru was deemed a failure, and further work is also being required on the seismic analysis. An ALO Independent Evaluation is expected to begin September 8th. Board staff and DP HQ (Stello) are also conducting reviews of this project.

B61 Spin Rocket Defects: Post-mortem on a failed B61-11 Development Flight Test revealed a spin rocket failure. Further examination identified burn through at a spin rocket case joint, possibly due to a missing [vendor provided] O-ring. SNL has requested that M&H perform UT inspections of all spin rockets in stock to ascertain the magnitude of the problem. Inspection of the ~400 units is scheduled to start September 15th, and take three weeks to complete.

Continuing Pit Thermal Issues: LLNL has added the W55 pit to the list of pits prohibited from exposure to sunlight, joining the W48 and B54 [Types 81 and 96]. Meanwhile, FL Shipping Container maximum ambient air temperature limits are specified in the SARP produced by LLNL. The generation of local packaging/handling procedures that will guarantee meeting these SARP requirements has been difficult, and further confused by administrative controls and overrides originated by ALO NESD. A LLNL representative has discussed this problem with NESD.

W76 and W78: W76 and W78 Detailed Tooling Reviews were completed this week, at acceptable levels of technical presentation and participation by Management and Review Team members. Based on the W78 review (last in a series), the W78 Management Team deemed that Milestone 1 had been met. Further details will be provided in a Board staff trip report.

Attachment

Upcoming Pantex Events:

September 3-4 -- W69 NESS Validation

September 8 -- W76 Interim Hazards Analysis issued

September 8-12 -- Dynamic Balancer Independent Evaluation (Brunell lead)

September 9-12 -- W69 WR SED

September 12 -- Site Integration Control Board meeting on Pit Containers

September 15 -- Dynamic Balancer startup [target date]

September 19 -- W69 Authorization Agreement Pilot Lot Closed**

September 22-23 - W79 Final Project Team Walkdown

September 22-26 -- DOE-STD-3009-94 seminar (run by SNL)

September 22-26 -- W76 Table Top Procedure Review

September 24-25 - W79 SIIR Confirmative Review

September 26 - W79 Type 6B Startup

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

October 20-24 -- NESD Annual Appraisal

November 30 -- Electrical Tester Master Study completion

NOTES: (1) ** highlights events for which schedule has changed
(2) W56 items previously on schedule removed due to slippage (three months or greater)