

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

**MEMO TO:** Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Tom Spatz, Pantex Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending December 21, 2012

**DNFSB Staff Activity:** D. Bullen, S. Horton, B. Laake, and J. Mercier were at Pantex this week to perform an on-site review of the NNSA Production Office (NPO) and Babcock and Wilcox Pantex (B&W Pantex) quality assurance and software quality assurance programs.

**Fire Penetration Seals:** This week, NPO issued the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) for the last set of facilities with suspect fire penetration seals. (See report for 12/14/12.) NPO accepted all the proposed compensatory measures identified in the Justification for Continued Operation (JCO) and issued the SER with no conditions of approval. B&W Pantex issued a standing order requiring all personnel with access to the Material Access Area (MAA) to complete a new training course on the compensatory actions in the three JCOs related to suspect fire penetration seals. After December 31, 2012, B&W Pantex will deny access to the MAA to anyone who has not completed this training.

**Human Factors:** This week, B&W Pantex issued a letter to NPO regarding the closure of a Senior Technical Advisor (STA) comment in the Operational Safety Review (OSR) of B61 disassembly and inspection operations. The comment stated that there was a lack of human factors consideration in the observed operations and raised the broader question of the incorporation of human factors in all nuclear explosive operations. In February 2011 the Pantex Site Office (now NPO) requested that B&W Pantex perform an evaluation of their human factors program to address the STA comment. B&W Pantex responded in October 2011 with a report that described the specific details of the B61 OSR observations. The Pantex Site Office replied in December 2011 that an evaluation of the Pantex human factors program was still required. The response from B&W linked an evaluation of the Pantex human factors program to the revision of Chapter 13, *Human Factors*, of the Site-Wide Safety Analysis Report. NPO rejected the revised Chapter 13 in August 2012, and B&W has not yet submitted another revision. (See report for 8/24/12.) The B&W Pantex letter issued this week, states that they plan to develop a human factors program description and associated training by June 2013 and then evaluate the STA comment within 45 days of implementation of the human factors program.