

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 5, 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 June 5, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: Harry Waugh was on site all week. Timothy Dwyer was on site Thursday and Friday.

W79 Mechanical Bay Disassembly: W79 Mechanical Bay Disassembly operations began this week. Work on the first unit was completed this morning, in time to allow W79 Cell Dissolution operations to begin on schedule on Monday. Disassembly of the first unit was delayed in-process when one of the screws in the Rocket Motor/Case joint could not be removed. This was not unexpected, and a Nuclear Explosive Engineering Procedure (NEEP) was immediately processed to provide instructions for the screw's removal. A second delay occurred when PTs were unable to meet the maximum combustible loading limits for bay operations due to the presence of the [detached] W79 Rocket Motor, which could not be moved out of the bay because of problems with the nuclear material control center (NMCC). Based on this first dismantlement, it is expected that W79 mechanical disassembly will require 2 days per unit throughout this campaign.

Pit Issues: Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS) personnel were on site this week to discuss means to accelerate RFETS pit shipments to Pantex. If the schedule is not accelerated, shipments are currently projected to continue through February 1999. The major time and manpower resource shortfalls are at Pantex, and are the result of Design Agency specifications that require Pantex personnel to leak check each pit as it is received on site, prior to repackaging into AL-R8s and transfer to Zone 4. [Note that RFETS is leak checking and weighing each pit prior to packaging it for shipment to Pantex.] M&H is planning to request a Design Agency Waiver of the leak check requirements, provided that the pits are leak checked prior to ultimate repackaging into Sealed Inserts. If the waiver is granted, M&H feels that there is a good chance that RFETS pit shipments can be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

Building 12-116: The SNM Component Staging Facility (Building 12-116) DOE ORR is scheduled to begin June 15th, with startup to follow as soon as possible thereafter. However, this schedule has been jeopardized by the recent identification of a safeguards and security issue -- per the 5630 series of DOE Orders, no category 1 SNM can be stored in Building 12-116 until the ARGUS system (or some other equivalent security measure) has been validated by DOE. The status of ARGUS was not examined by either the MSA or contractor ORR; rather, both reviews merely observed that the ARGUS equipment had been installed in the facility. ARGUS will not be ready for validation in the near future, as it has fallen well behind its program milestones. The only apparent solution appears to be permanently stationing 3 Security Police Officers (SPOs) inside the facility, though the resource/budget implications of this would be prohibitive.

Attachment
Upcoming Pantex Events:

June 8 -- W79 Cell Startup**

June 9 -- W56 Project Team Meeting**

June 10-19 -- W62 NES Revalidation**

June 15-26 -- Building 12-116 DOE ORR

June 15-18 -- U.K visit - SS21

June 15-26 -- W56 SIRR (slipping)**

June 16 -- W87 ASSET Final Management Team Review**

June 25 -- Pit Thermal Meeting**

??Jul -- Building 12-116 startup

July 7 -- Quarterly NMO Program Meeting**

July 8 -- Quarterly Production Meeting

July 9-13 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study SIID validation [adequacy review]

???? -- B61-7 Limited Readiness Assessment

July 23 -- W78 SEP**

July 27-31 -- B53 Aft Cap Assy Cover NESS (allow movement from Zone 12 to Zone 4)**

July 30-August 26 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study

August 28 -- Bldg 12-104A Paint Bay MSA commences

NOTES: ** highlights events which are new listings or for which schedule has changed