

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 31, 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Timothy Hunt and Dave Kupferer, Pantex Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending December 31, 2004

Phase Two Tooling Restart Activities. Very few nuclear explosive operations occurred this week since most of the production technicians were off for the holidays. However, many activities were ongoing related to tooling program improvement and the tooling restart, including tooling fastener torque verification (standing order OPS-04-007) and preparations to verify the functional safety features of tooling that are credited in the authorization basis (standing order OPS-04-008).

Emergency Lighting Outage. Last week, a sub-contractor was installing new wiring in a conduit and junction box. During the installation, a short circuit was created that tripped a static circuit breaker in the uninterruptible power supply. As a result, power to the emergency lighting of the Joint Test Assembly facilities was lost. Power to the emergency lighting was restored the following morning. Some questions remain as to why the uninterruptible power supply did not reset itself after the event.

W70 Disassembly Operations. Plans are being finalized to restart W70 component disassembly activities, which will utilize tooling and processes very similar to those used previously. W70 disassembly operations ended prematurely in 1998 due to lack of funding. It is expected that the component dismantlement operations will only utilize one nuclear explosive bay and that multiple units will be processed simultaneously. The quantity of special nuclear material involved in the operation will not exceed the lower Hazard Category 2 threshold, but the nuclear explosive bay will be maintained as a Hazard Category 2 facility.