

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 27, 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 February 27, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: Harry Waugh was on site all week. Timothy Dwyer was on site Monday through Thursday. Jack Deplitch and Matthew Forsbacka were on site all week for the W79 Dismantlement NESS..

Lightning Issues: For the 3rd straight week, lightning safety was an issue at the Pantex site. An occurrence report (ALO-AO-MHSM-PANTEX-1998-009) was initiated due to a violation of lightning stand-off requirements in Building 12-44 Cell 4 (W84 Dismantlement Program). The apparent cause was receipt by the PTs and the Operations Manager on February 24th of a January 20th Engineering Instruction that revised stand-off requirements. They promptly measured existing stand-off distances in the cell and discovered their current workspace configuration was not in compliance. This event is intrinsically linked with the conflicting information presented in site lightning protection documentation discussed in last week's Site Representative letter.

W79 Dismantlement Program: The W79 Dismantlement Program NESS commenced Monday, with full NESS Group attendance, plus several observers (trainees) and Board staff members. Activity this week concentrated on bay operations related to staging and mechanical disassembly. Overall, the NESSG showed a high level of familiarity with the W79 dismantlement process and asked numerous cogent questions. Particular attention was paid to the NEHA, which was found to be incomplete in several areas, including detonator safety issues (e.g., ESD and impact), combustible load limits, and fire analysis. Further, topics associated with several global issues at Pantex (i.e., seismic, lightning, fire protection, and transportation), were also incompletely analyzed in the NEHA. The W79 Project Team has advocated excluding these topics from the W79 NESS, and addressing them separately/externally via master studies. The NESSG is wrestling with how it will handle these issues within the W79 NESS.

The Safety Evaluation and Readiness Assessment (SE/RA) teams are doing a combined assessment of ES&H and facility readiness in conjunction with the NESS. This is the first time these teams have done a combined review, and the first time either team has conducted its review in conjunction with the NESS. The SERA team is feeling its way through the process, as was evident by the fact that the Implementation Plan was distributed on day 3 of the review.

Personnel Issues: The AAO Manager has announced the selection of R. T. Brock, from DOE-SR, as the new Senior Scientific and Technical Advisor. In addition, an Authorization Basis Team is being created within AAO. It will be headed up by D. Brunell, and include four staff members (H. Chavez, D. Kelly, J. Dyke, R. Moore). The position of Assistant Area Office Manager for Nuclear Materials (currently D. Brunell) will be advertised as soon as the AAO Manager's reorganization proposal is approved by DOE-AL. In addition, AAO intends to request permission to hire four of the facility representative finalists for the two facility representative positions advertised in December. Three will be assigned as facility representatives, and one as a risk management specialist. This will bring total site facility representative manning up to 8 (4 of whom are fully qualified), plus a full time Branch Chief.

Attachment
Upcoming Pantex Events:

Now-March 27 -- W79 NESS [in progress]

March 4 -- Lightning Protection Working Group meeting w/ DP-3/20 [@ DOE-AL]

March 5 -- Dynamic Balancer meeting w/ DP-3/20 [@ DOE-AL]

March 5 -- W56 Project Team meeting**

March 9-13 -- W56 Project Team walkthroughs**

March 9-13 -- W84 Safety Evaluation (SE)**

March 9-20 -- Building 12-116 Management Self-Assessment (MSA)

March 11-12 -- AT-400A Imaging/UT Management/Technical Review (@ DOE-AL)**

March 13 -- W76 HATT walkthroughs complete

March 20 -- B61-11 NESE SIID validation [adequacy review]

March 24 -- Second W87 ASSET Program Senior Management Team Review**

March 24-25 -- B83 Provisioning and Program Review

March 25 -- Major Sitewide Emergency Exercise

March 30-April 9 -- Building 12-116 Contractor ORR

March 31 -- Final W87 ASSET Senior Management Team Review**

April 7-17 -- B61-11 NESE

April 8 -- Quarterly Production Meeting

April ?? -- W56 SIRR

April 20 -- W79 FDU

April 20 -- W76 SIRR commences

April 20-May 1 -- Building 12-116 DOE ORR

April 28-May 1 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study SIID validation [adequacy review]

May 1 -- Building 12-116 startup

May 5-8 -- W56 NESS SIID validation [adequacy review]

May 18-June 14 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study

June 2-July 10 -- W56 NESS

June 9 -- W76 HAR and ABCD complete

June 9-19 -- W62 NES Revalidation

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