

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 20, 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 March 20, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: Harry Waugh was on site all week. Timothy Dwyer was on site Tuesday thru Friday. Matthew Forsbacka and OE Lary McGrew were on site all week for the W79 Dismantlement NESS. Charles Keilers, Asadour Hadjian, and OEs William Hall, Paul Rizzo, and John Stevenson were on site Wednesday and Thursday reviewing structural issues.

W79 Dismantlement Program: The W79 Dismantlement Program NESS continued this week, concentrating on a demonstration of the HE dissolution process using the DMSO workstation -- HE was successfully dissolved from a Type 6B unit in nine hours. In addition, follow-on briefings were provided on the progress of the draft fire hazards analysis (HA) and the qualification of the dielectric hoist isolator for use with WR units. The NESS Chairman also indicated that the NESS will most likely require an additional week of effort.

Issues regarding the comprehensiveness of the HA surfaced during the discussion sessions. Of particular note, the NESS Chairman requested briefings to describe the consequences following an (assumed) fire in the workstation. It should be noted that this is intended to be a bounding condition for consequence analysis only, so the probability of ignition is defined to be unity without regard to the realism of the ignition source. These briefings should address the duration of possible fires, the consequences involving various portions of solvent loading as a function of the amount of HE dissolved, and the consequence of HE overheat and/or pit breach.

Building 12-116: The Building 12-116 Management Self-Assessment (MSA) continued this week. The MSA team ran a set of facility drills to gauge operator performance; half of the drill set will be repeated next week due to the number of material and operational deficiencies noted. MSA duration has now been extended at least one week, to conclude next Friday instead of today. The AAO Technical Safety Analysis Review Panel (TSARP) has finished its review of the M&H FSAR, recommending that the AAO Manager approve it. Although there is no minority opinion in the SER submitted by the TSARP, there was some difference of opinion on 4 topics, which was briefed to the AAO Manager on Thursday. The 4 topics included combustible material control, tritium material limits, entry door control, and controls to ensure no HE is allowed inside Building 12-116. AAO is leaning toward incorporation of LCOs in place of administrative controls for these 4 topics, and will meet with M&H management to discuss the SER.

Building 12-64: The frangible roofs in the Building 12-64 bays have extensive visible cracks on the bottom. (This is the subject of a recent USQ.) On Thursday, DOE, M&H, and the Board staff discussed several models for estimating the margin available above dead load for these roofs. All parties recognized that additional evaluations are required now, before W69 Dismantlement operations are expanded into 3 more Building 12-64 bays. Interim measures were discussed, such as an aggressive surveillance program, but these may not particularly aid in resolution of the open USQ. Despite DOE assurances that Building 12-64 will not be used for nuclear explosive dismantlements once the W69 campaign is completed (see DOE DP-20 letter dated February 27, 1998), it was apparent that current facility utilization projections will be revisited by the contractor as the out-year workload changes. Even if not housing an active dismantlement, Building 12-64 will remain a defense nuclear facility in which worker safety must be assured.

**Attachment
Upcoming Pantex Events:**

Now-April 3 -- W79 NESS [in progress]**

Now-March 27 -- Building 12-116 Management Self-Assessment (MSA) [in progress]**

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 26 -- Pit Thermal Meeting**

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

March 31 -- Final W87 ASSET Senior Management Team Review

March 31 -- W56 Bay MSA begins

April 7-17 -- B61-11 NESE

April 7-8 -- NMO Quarterly Meeting/Quarterly Production Meeting

April 13-16 -- 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 4-8 -- JOWOG [possibly including lightning workshop]

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