

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 10, 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 April 10, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: Timothy Dwyer was on site all week. Harry Waugh was on site Monday through Wednesday, and Friday.

W79 Dismantlement Program: The W79 Dismantlement Program NESS concluded this week, after completing NESSG deliberations and final editing of the NESS report. A draft copy of the report should be available for Board staff review on Monday. Preliminary data indicates that 52 pre-start findings, 4 post-start findings (plus 3 directed at future NESSs), and 6 observations are reported. A number of the pre-start findings are relatively straight forward and have already been corrected by M&H. The W79 Project Team is also working to address the 8 action items that were developed out of last week's meeting with DP-3 (Stello).

Pit Issues: The Integrated Pit Storage Program Plan (IPSP) Tiger Team began work this Thursday on the Pantex input to the DOE-AL IPSP. Working groups were established to address: [1] packaging; [2] movement, staging, shipping, & receiving; [3] storage; [4] monitoring & surveillance; and [5] safeguards/transparency. Pantex input is due to AAO by April 24th, and to DOE-AL by April 30th. The Tiger Team was informed that the M&H Sealed Insert (SI) option had been selected from the 3 final SI candidates, although formal documentation to that effect has not yet been issued. Four cases were defined, to be examined by each working group: [1] all pits in AT-400As; [2] all pits in SIs; [3] W48s in AT-400As, all other pits in SIs; and [4] W48s and Strategic Reserve pits in AT-400As, all other pits in SIs. Case [1] was subsequently discarded.

The AT-400A Pit Repackaging Line remains shut down. Pending installation of an automated ultrasonic testing (UT) station, resumption of repackaging is now projected for mid-June. In the interim, AT-400A personnel have been conducting pit serial number verifications for the remainder of the pilot lot (50 pits minus the 18 already canned). Four of the AL-R8s handled during this verification have shown evidence of degradation in storage.

Building 12-64: M&H completed X-Rays of the rebar joint (splice) in Building 12-64 bay 13 using the portable LINAC. It appears that the rebar is size #11, and that the splice meets minimum overlap requirements. A M&H report summarizing the data should be available early next week. Of note: on at least two occasions senior M&H managers have indicated that future facility use plans showing the end of nuclear explosive operations in Building 12-64 following completion of the W69 Dismantlement campaign may require reconsideration.

W84 D&I Program: A W84 Safety Evaluation (SE) close-out briefing was held on Wednesday. The LLNL/SNL review team issued a "conditional" SE Release (SER) indicating that the W84 processes and procedures are acceptable, although post-start changes must be incorporated prior to release of the final SER. The W84 radiography and PAL operations and procedures were fully acceptable, allowing work to proceed on the 2 W84s with PAL problems.

Personnel Issues: AAO has established an excepted service position of Authorization Basis Team Leader, for which Don Brunell has been selected. He will be supported by a staff of four. Brunell's former position (Assistant Area Office Manager for Nuclear Materials Operations) will be advertised DOE-wide as soon as possible.

**Attachment
Upcoming Pantex Events:**

April 14-24 -- B61-11 NESE**

April 14 -- Integrated Pit Storage Program Plan staff-to-staff meeting (@ DOE-AL)**

April 20-24 -- W56 SIRR**

April 20-May 2 -- Building 12-116 Contractor ORR

April 20 -- W79 FDU [doubtful]

April 20 -- W76 SIRR commences

April 21 -- Bldg 12-104A Paint Bay Milestone 0/1 Meeting**

April 23 -- Pit Thermal Meeting

May 4-8 -- JOWOG [possibly including lightning workshop]

May 5 -- Bldg 12-104A Paint Bay Milestone 2 Meeting**

May 11-22 -- Building 12-116 DOE ORR**

June 1 -- Building 12-116 startup**

June 3 -- W87 ASSET Final Management Team Review**

??Jun?? -- W56 NESS SIID validation [adequacy review]

June 9-19 -- W62 NES Revalidation

June 29-July 31 -- W56 NESS**

??Jul?? -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study SIID validation [adequacy review]**

???? -- W76 HAR and ABCD complete**

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

??Aug?? -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study**

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