

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 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 November 27, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: T. Dwyer and H. Waugh were on site Monday through Wednesday. The site offices were closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

W87 Life Extension Program (LEP) Management Self Assessment (MSA): The W87 LEP MSA concluded last Friday. Since then, the outbrief has been deferred several times and it might never be formally held. A first draft of the final MSA report is expected to be available to the Project Team next week. At least 20 draft pre-start findings have been developed, including numerous issues involving a failure to properly prepare the facility and the NEOPs to meet SS-21 performance standards. Additionally, the schedule for the impending W87 SIRR has been called into question. M&H, AAO, and DOE-AL are debating the efficacy of holding the SIRR as scheduled, prior to completion of the W87 LEP HAR and ABCD -- at present the SIRR is on hold, with the possibility that it will be deferred several months, or possibly not held at all.

W79 Dismantlement Program: As of last Friday (November 20th), M&H had completed a total of 29 W79 dismantlements. Operations in Building 12-98 Cell 1 were shut down this week for scheduled maintenance. Dismantlement operations will resume on November 30th. Dismantlement operations in Building 12-98 Cell 2 have not yet been authorized, and, in fact, will probably not be authorized this fiscal year.

PT-4174 Tester NESS: The SIID Adequacy Review (held by teleconference) for the upcoming PT-4174 NESS resulted in a determination that the NESS could be held as scheduled. The only potential concern was an acknowledged failure to address tester performance in abnormal environments, an issue raised by the Board staff. The NESS will begin December 8th.