

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 12, 1999

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 12, 1999

DNFSB Activity Summary: H. Waugh was on site all week. T. Dwyer was on site Wednesday - Friday. Monday - Tuesday he was participating in training at SNL.

W87 Life Extension Program (LEP): The Engineering Evaluation for the W87 LEP continued this week, although quality issues have impacted both units. Unit 1 is undergoing repair to a defect noted during preparations for vacuum check. Unit 2 has had additional silastic potting material problems, and is being torn down again. M&H still expects to deliver a unit by the required FPU date. Meanwhile, DOE-AL dissatisfaction with progress to date on the W87 HAR/ABCD led to convening another murder board for these documents Wednesday-Thursday. Completion of the HAR/ABCD is a prerequisite for the RA to be conducted on units 3 and 4.

W56 Dismantlement Program: W56 activity has largely been on hold awaiting completion of the fire protection upgrade to Building 12-99. Beneficial occupancy of 12-99 was finally granted today at noon. By working over the weekend, M&H expects to be able to resume the suspended W56 Readiness Assessment on Tuesday, February 16th. Of note, based on the difficulties encountered in upgrading Building 12-99, Building 12-84W construction has been deferred until M&H is convinced that their subcontractors (Duke Electric and Vitel) have assimilated the lessons to be learned. Instead, a smaller facility, Building 12-53 (MAA Calibration Laboratory) is being considered as a substitute next fire protection upgrade target.

B53 End Cap Program: As a precursor to moving B53 End Cap Assemblies from Zone 12 to Zone 4, it was deemed advisable to repackage them using a heavier external cover. Changeout to the new $\frac{3}{16}$ " steel cover was demonstrated Tuesday. Under a NEOP, the bullet proof blankets are removed from the old cover, fasteners are loosened, and the old 150 lb cover is hoisted away. Checks are then made to ensure that all hardware is in place and detonator cables are properly coiled and packaged in velostat bags. The new 515 lb cover is hoisted into place, lowered over the End Cap Assembly, and secured to the base. All steps in the NEOP were performed as written; there were no suggested changes or corrections. The entire operation took ~1 hour.

Recommendation 98-2: Board Staff met with the AAO Senior Scientific and Technical Advisor (primary author of the draft DOE Recommendation 98-2 Implementation Plan (IP)) on Thursday, to review the latest documents and provide real-time feedback. DOE personnel have recognized that preparing the next draft of the IP will require the dedicated efforts of several key individuals, and continuing interaction with the Board staff. DOE currently expects to meet the required March 10th IP delivery date. Friday, February 19th, an IP presentation to DP-20 has been scheduled, after which DOE will have to decide that the IP is near final form, or that a letter requesting an extension of the IP delivery date must be drafted.