

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 2, 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 July 2, 1999

DNFSB Activity Summary: H. Waugh was on site all week. T. Dwyer was on annual leave all week.

AL-R8 Sealed Insert (SI): Although the AL-R8 SI Readiness Assessment was completed last week, the Readiness Review Deficiency Forms [Form 2's] were not released until this Wednesday. There were 17 pre-start findings, 14 post-start findings, and 5 observations. M&H is making every effort to begin the Engineering Evaluation (EE)/start-up next week. The proposed plan is to begin on Thursday and to package just 2 pits [1 W54 & 1 W68] instead of the 6 originally planned. DOE-AL appears to be pushing for the start next week, while AAO personnel have indicated that starting then may be premature. A more realistic start date is probably July 12th, assuming the Authorization Agreement (AA) has been signed by then. A draft AA prepared by M&H has been provided to AAO for review and comment. As preparations continue for the EE, M&H is preparing a second packaging line in Building 12-99, Bay 2. M&H is hoping to begin this operation without having to go through another readiness exercise.^[II.B.2.b]

W56 Dismantlement Program: As directed by AAO, M&H has performed a Safety Evaluation Screen (SES) and completed a USQD relative to the revised torquing procedure [using a porta-power] proposed for separating the threaded joint between the W56 primary and secondary. Following a review of these documents, AAO indicated that they concur with the use of the new procedure. M&H initiated use of the new procedure on Friday, and the PTs believe that they obtained approximately 1/2-inch of movement in the joint. Completion of the separation process will be attempted on Monday.^[II.B.2.a]

Flammable Solvents Justification for Continued Operation (JCO): The JCO that was generated after the W78 alcohol fire, PX-JCO-99-01 Rev 1, expired on June 30th. On June 23rd, M&H submitted a 2nd revision of the JCO to AAO for approval. This revision extended the expiration date to October 31, 1999, but it also included multiple changes to various sections, including the Controls Section. Supporting basis information, adequate for use by the approval authority (AAO) was not provided. Lacking the time and information to review the proposed changes, AAO refused to approve the revised document and instead approved an extension of the expiration date of the existing Rev 1 to October 31, 1999. By this date, it is possible that the required controls will be incorporated into the sitewide TSRs, thus rendering the JCO moot.

Related to the above topic, there was an EH-10/PAAA meeting on this subject held here on Tuesday. The fact finding group was here for about 5 hours, which included a working lunch. The group included 3 people from EH-10, 1 from DOE-AL, and 1 from KAO. Details of the W78 alcohol fire incident were discussed with appropriate M&H and AAO management.^[II.B.2.b]