

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 2, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director

FROM: T. Dwyer and H. Waugh, Pantex Site Representatives

SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending June 2, 2000

DNFSB Activity Summary: T. Dwyer and H. Waugh were on site all week. A. Matteucci and OE R. West were on site all week observing the AB Upgrade Program Review.

Authorization Basis Issues: On Thursday, AAO and M&H held a joint review of the Authorization Basis Upgrade Program. The review consisted of an overview of the proposed final product and the status and path forward for the individual modules of the authorization basis. M&H is required to deliver a detailed Development and Implementation Plan to AAO by July 3rd. The estimated completion date for having a multi-volume SAR for the site, individual facilities, and weapons programs, was optimistically scheduled for the end of FY '03. The M&H authorization basis organization had recently been changed, but, even with little experience in their new positions, the various element managers appeared to provide improved direction and ownership of program issues. The next modules scheduled to be completed and implemented [lightning and fire protection] had clear paths to completion. [Granted, the paths are not easy.] The transportation module plan lacked definition in some important areas and a follow-on meeting was scheduled between AAO and M&H to iron these out. Design Agency support for this module may become a key sticking point. Modules for the bays and cells were at risk because of lack of progress in completing seismic studies by the laboratories. The modules [special purpose facilities, staging, and safety management programs] scheduled for work in FY 2002 and 2003 lacked definition at this time.^[II.A]

AL-R8 Sealed Insert (SI) Repackaging Line: M&H has formally requested that DOE modify the AL-R8 SI repackaging goal from 200 pits per month to 100 pits per month. This request has been made necessary by the failure of DOE to provide the funding necessary to procure additional AL-R8 SI containers. Given the limited supply of containers on hand, M&H recommends decreasing the repackaging rate in order to maintain the experience and proficiency of the PTs, and to continue to exercise the repackaging equipment. Note that DOE approval of this request will require formal, Secretarial-level notification to the Board of a major change to the Recommendation 99-1 Implementation Plan. Repackaging at the lower rate should also engender a Design Agency demand for amplifying the annual pit surveillance schedule. In the mean time, throughput this week was about 15 pits. Weekend work is planned to try to finish the required thermistored AL-R8 SIs for the Zone 4 thermal testing [overdue for June 1st start].^[II.A]

Lightning Issues: Preparations for the contractor Readiness Assessment (RA) on the upgraded lightning authorization basis continued this week, although the RA did not start as planned, and may not start next week. AAO has issued revision 1 to the Safety Evaluation Report (SER), accepting most of the actions taken by M&H to address the conditions of approval in the original SER. AAO also approved the M&H implementation plan for the lightning controls, and, late Friday, approved the M&H Plan of Action for the contractor RA.^[II.A]

Personnel Issues: Serious Texans Against Nuclear Dumping (STAND) has announced a change in their Program Director position. Mr. D. Moniak has begun a 3-month leave of absence, and Ms. B. Gattis has been appointed as acting Executive Director.^[I.B]