

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 14, 2001

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director

**FROM:** H. Waugh and W. White, Pantex Site Representatives

**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending September 14, 2001

**DNFSB Activity Summary:** H. Waugh was on site all week. W. White was on leave Monday afternoon and was on site for the remainder of the week. Staff members T. Dwyer, A. Matteucci, and D. Nichols were on site Tuesday and Thursday. The Pantex visit by members of the Board was postponed.

**Pantex Operational Status:** The Pantex Plant suspended normal operations on Tuesday following the events in New York City and Washington, D.C. All nuclear explosive operations ended when units being processed reached a safe and stable condition. The Pantex plant was closed to all but essential personnel from mid-day Tuesday through the remainder of the week.

Security and fire protection personnel, as well as personnel necessary to support critical maintenance activities, were required to report to work. Maintenance activities which continued to be conducted during the week included preventive maintenance on the fire protection and detection systems, uninterruptible power systems, blast door interlocks, etc. AAO facility representatives and the Board's site representative observed these maintenance activities. As of Friday afternoon, it was unclear whether Pantex would resume normal operations on Monday morning.

**W78 Program:** The W78 contractor readiness assessment did not restart this week as previously scheduled. A revised restart date has not yet been scheduled.. [II.A]

**W80 Command Disablement Testing:** AAO has not yet scheduled its readiness assessment for W80 command disablement operations. Focus of the readiness assessment will be to ensure that the safety basis supporting the operations has been implemented, personnel conducting the operations are adequately trained, and formality of operations is adequate. As of Friday, the JCO for the operations had not been approved by AAO. [II.A]

**W88 Multi-Unit Processing Authorization Basis:** In August, BWXT submitted an authorization basis change to AAO to allow processing of more than one W88 unit in a given nuclear explosive facility. The authorization basis change requires that operations on units in the same facility be conducted in lock step (within a limited range of procedural steps). The analysis included a detailed discussion of the impacts of increasing the frequency of operations. AAO has not yet released its safety evaluation report approving the authorization basis change. [II.A]