

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 23, 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 November 23, 2001

DNFSB Activity Summary: The DNFSB Pantex site office was closed on Thursday for the Thanksgiving Holiday. H. Waugh was on site for the remainder of the week. W. White was on site Monday and was on leave for the remainder of the week. The Pantex plant was closed on Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

W78 Independent Safety Reviews: No W78 NNSA nuclear explosive safety study or NNSA readiness assessment activities were scheduled during the holiday week. Both will resume next week with demonstrations of cell operations. [II.A]

Pit Temperature Limits: Earlier this month, NNSA's Amarillo Area Office (AAO) sent a memorandum to BWXT Pantex, requesting an evaluation of the implementation of thermal requirements for the storage of pits. AAO requested that BWXT "evaluate implementation of the thermal requirements identified . . . and reply to the AAO within thirty (30) days from receipt of this memorandum." Additionally, AAO requested that BWXT "develop a cost analysis and schedule to implement other pit [specifications] applicable to Nuclear Material Operations . . . which have either not been previously considered or have been included in the Management Integration Controls, Standards/Requirements Identification Document."

In earlier correspondence, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory had identified required storage temperatures for pits and had identified which of those temperatures were considered to be safety-based rather than quality-based. In September, the NNSA Albuquerque Operations Office had requested that Los Alamos National Laboratory provide similar information for LANL-designed pits by the end of this calendar year. At some point, NNSA, BWXT, and the design agencies must reach consensus on the safety-related temperature limits for storage of pits, the systems and controls needed to maintain those limits, and the required updates to the Pantex authorization basis to capture the limits and associated systems. [II.A]

Pantex Budget Issues: Last week, BWXT sent NNSA's Albuquerque Operations Office a memorandum detailing potential funding issues based on the proposed Pantex budget allocation. According to BWXT, the draft funding allocation does not support the existing work scope, personnel numbers or critical skills hiring plan. Under this allocation, BWXT claims a reduction-in-force of at least 82 personnel will be required. The letter also identifies funding shortfalls in security, DSW, and RTBF programs. Potential impacts include not initiating a second W79 dismantlement line, slips in the B83 SS-21 milestone dates, and reductions in the base environmental, safety, health, and quality programs. The letter also notes that infrastructure improvement initiatives will not be funded unless this year's \$25 million Congressional plus up is incremental to the proposed funding profile. AAO is

currently evaluating the letter. [II.A]