

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 15, 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: H. Waugh and W. White, Pantex Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending February 15, 2002

DNFSB Activity Summary: H. Waugh was on site all week. W. White was on leave Monday and Wednesday and was on site for the remainder of the week.

Authorization Basis Upgrade Program: On Tuesday, BWXT issued the latest revision to its *Pantex Plant Authorization Basis Upgrade Program Plan*. Contrary to the trend established with past plan revisions, this latest version actually accelerates the schedule, even if only by a few days, for many of the safety analysis report (SAR) modules. However, many of the module submission dates are still delayed significantly from the dates presented to the Board in August 2000 as a deliverable under Recommendation 98-2. A few of the schedule changes from the December 2001 version of the plan are as follows:

- c Submission of the Transportation SAR module for partial configurations has been accelerated by over a month to January 10, 2003.
 - c Submission of the Paint Bay SAR module has been accelerated by several weeks to August 26, 2002. This acceleration was made possible, in part, by allowing seismic scenario evaluations to be submitted separately and later, but before April 2003.
 - c The submission of the LINAC and X-Ray SAR module was also accelerated by several weeks (to November 13, 2002). As with the Paint Bay SAR module, this was made possible by allowing seismic scenario evaluations to be submitted separately.
 - c Submission of several other modules was also accelerated by a few days, but in all cases it was noted that seismic scenario evaluations may be submitted separately, but before April 2003.
 - c Submission of the Bays and Cells SAR module is scheduled for March 21, 2002, a slip of several weeks, primarily to incorporate concerns with the treatment and presentation of weapon response information discussed in an OASO letter rejecting the recent Paint Bay BIO module submission.
- [II.A]

Lightning Protection Controls: Earlier this month, BWXT issued procedure P7-2004, *Lightning Protection Controls*. This new procedure implements many of the lightning protection control changes approved following the W87 lightning protection nuclear explosive safety study over a year ago. Hoisting and lifting operations, task exhaust operations, manifold operations, and certain mass properties operations are now allowed during lightning warnings. [II.A]

Technical Safety Requirement Violation: On Thursday, an OASO facility representative observed production technicians performing touch-up paint work on a nuclear explosive transportation container. The technician performing the work utilized electrical bonding. The procedure notes that task exhaust is to be used if available and usable, but there is some ambiguity about earlier procedure steps indicating the production technicians have flexibility in using task exhaust or bonding. The *Technical Safety Requirements for Pantex Facilities* (5.6.33.8) require the use of task exhaust where “available and feasible.” OASO and BWXT determined that, in this case, task exhaust was available and feasible. [II.A]