

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 7, 2003

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** W. White, Pantex Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending November 7, 2003

**DNFSB Activity Summary:** W. White was on leave Friday and was on site for the remainder of the week.

**High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) Filters:** In its updated response to the Board in October 17, 2003, regarding HEPA filters used for habitability purposes, NNSA identified that filters in three facilities at the Pantex Plant provide a habitability function. In the BWXT attachment supporting this letter, BWXT committed to providing a cost and schedule estimate by October 20, 2003, for upgrading these systems and putting the filters through the test program at the Filter Test Facility.

This cost and schedule estimate was provided to PXSO on Thursday. The BWXT schedule calls for completion by August 2004 of the necessary items to put the filters through the FTF test program and to ensure the leak tightness of the ventilation systems is commensurate with the quality of the filters. The letter identifies a cost estimate of approximately \$100,000 and notes that PXSO approval to proceed with the action items is necessary by December 19, 2003. [II.A, E1]

**B61 Seamless Safety Project:** The B61 project team briefed the Standing Management Team this week on the seamless safety concept and schedule for the B61 program. The project team currently plans to use a single work stand concept for B61 operations that will eliminate all hoists of the nuclear explosive except the initial lift from the shipping gear to the work stand. The work stand will be used for all mods of the B61 program and will incorporate features to mitigate or eliminate potential personnel safety hazards resulting from human or component electrostatic discharge scenarios.

The current schedule calls for implementation of the new process in April 2005. This is a slip of only two months from the schedule in the current integrated weapons activity plan (February 2005). [II.A, NA]

**Quality Assurance Assessment:** NNSA headquarters personnel were on site this week to conduct an assessment of the quality assurance programs within PXSO. The assessment is a deliverable under the DOE *Quality Assurance Improvement Plan for Defense Nuclear Facilities* that was forwarded to the Board in November 2002. The assessment noted that the quality assurance function within PXSO is understaffed. The assessment also noted that most internal PXSO procedures are out of date and no longer reflect the PXSO organization.

In previous discussions with PXSO personnel, the site representative has noted that the site functions, responsibilities and authorities manual is also out of date and doesn't reflect the current PXSO organization. In addition, supplemental directives that previously resided within the Albuquerque Operations Office contain roles and responsibilities for the operations office that have not been reassigned formally in NNSA headquarters or site office procedures and directives. PXSO has also implemented its new line oversight model, in conjunction with the BWXT contractor assurance system, without complete, final documentation on site office roles, responsibilities, and procedures for carrying out that oversight model. [II.A, M1]