

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

MEMO TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Timothy Hunt and Dave Kupferer, Pantex Site Representatives
DATE: 1 June 2007
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Weekly Report

W76-1 Assembly Start-up Reviews: Two weeks ago, BWXT completed a contractor readiness assessment (CRA) that evaluated whether it was prepared to commence W76-1 SS-21 assembly operations. The CRA team identified 20 pre-start findings, 2 post-start findings, and 13 observations. In particular, the review team identified several procedure related issues including numerous errors, steps that could not be performed as written, and inadequate flowdown of requirements into the procedures. The team also noted that production technicians did not always execute the procedures as written. The report included a rather candid discussion of the issues that made this CRA more difficult to conduct, and less successful than usual. Specifically, the CRA team noted that the documented safety analysis had not been approved prior to the start of the review, which was a contributing factor to several of the findings. The NNSA readiness assessment (RA) has been delayed because the prerequisite documentation has not been completed and approved. BWXT is working to close the pre-start findings from the CRA with the current expectation that the NNSA RA will begin next week. The mandated 14 June authorization date for W76-1 operations is in jeopardy.

Hoist Replacement: There are approximately 95 hoists used in nuclear operations at Pantex. ASME NUM-1, *Rules for Construction of Cranes, Monorails, and Hoists*, is the design standard for hoists and cranes used in nuclear facilities. More than two years ago, BWXT performed a cross-walk between the requirements of ASME NUM-1 and the configuration of onsite hoisting equipment. BWXT identified several weaknesses including an absence of redundant systems, inadequate safety factors, and a lack of design documentation. In February 2005, BWXT issued a plan to replace the current hoists with ASME NUM-1 qualified hoists by FY2007. BWXT has selected, qualified, and procured three hoist designs. However, only nine AMSE NUM-1 qualified hoists have been installed, six of which were part of the 12-44 upgrade project. More than 30 other new hoists have been stored in a Pantex warehouse since February 2006. BWXT recently issued a revision to the aforementioned plan and has formally delayed the schedule to install the new hoists until FY2008 and FY2009, contingent on the availability of funding.

W76-0 Disassembly and Inspection (D&I) Procedures: Two weeks ago, while investigating an anomalous impact event that occurred during W76-0 operations, BWXT discovered that a D&I operating procedure had not been evaluated via the unreviewed safety question (USQ) process. PXSO subsequently requested that BWXT determine how many other procedures had changes (e.g., tooling, material) that had not been evaluated through the USQ process. BWXT's extent of condition evaluation concluded that the issue is isolated to the W76-0 D&I procedures. Therefore, BWXT has suspended all D&I operations until the nine affected W76-0 procedures have been reviewed through the USQ process. The procedure reviews are expected to take a couple weeks to complete.

Pantex Guards: The union members ratified a new five-year labor agreement on Tuesday, ending a six-week strike.