

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 5, 2013

MEMO To: Steven Stokes, Acting Technical Director
FROM: Thomas Spatz, Pantex Site Representative
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending July 5, 2013

Convoy Right-of-Way Technical Safety Requirement (TSR) Violation: This week, Babcock & Wilcox Pantex (B&W) declared a Convoy Right-of-Way Specific Administrative Control (SAC) TSR violation. A B&W employee was stopped for the convoy, and then moved about thirty feet into a parking lot to give the tractor trailer room to turn. B&W categorized this as a significance category, Recurring event. They reported at least four events of vehicle movement during a convoy within the last 18 months. B&W also stated that safety was not compromised in any of these events. In December 2012, the B&W authorization basis department tried to eliminate this TSR from the safety basis. (See report for 12/28/2012.) The NNSA Production Office (NPO) returned the change package without taking action to issue the Safety Evaluation Report.

Fire Penetration Seals: This week, the Justification for Continued Operation (JCO) allowing work to continue with suspect fire penetration seals expired. (See reports for 2/1/13 and 4.12.13.) B&W has replaced the fire penetration seals in all nuclear facilities except one, which was placed in repair mode before the JCO expired. B&W has lifted the compensatory measures related to combustible material and ignition sources on all nuclear facilities. The one nuclear facility still needing fire penetration seal replacements will require asbestos abatement prior to replacing the seals. B&W will barricade the ramp outside this facility and proceed with asbestos abatement in the coming weeks.

Restart W84 Permissive Action Link (PAL) Operations: This week, NNSA submitted the NNSA Readiness Assessment (RA) final report to B&W. The RA team found no pre-start findings, one post-start finding, and one observation. The post-start finding was related to B&W using a laminated reference card as an unofficial operator aid at the magazine facility where the unit will be stored. The observation was related to two production technician's inability to hear the public address system over background noise during demonstrations. Also this week, NPO sent a letter to B&W authorizing restart of W84 PAL operations.

Electrical Equipment Approval Process: This week, B&W production tooling support personnel discovered a battery powered hand held electrical device that had not been approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriter Laboratories, in a nuclear facility. B&W production tooling support personnel placed do not use tags on the equipment and removed the equipment from the nuclear facility. This device is a replacement for an older device, and B&W did not follow their official process for approving electrical power devices for use in a nuclear facility. B&W is evaluating the event.

Component Alignment Issue: This week, B&W paused operations in one facility due to an alignment issue between a weapon component and tooling. This is a recurring alignment issue caused by component tolerances. B&W tooling engineers recently redesigned the tooling based on the last alignment event. B&W placed the unit in a safe and stable configuration while tooling engineers re-evaluate the tooling.