

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

January 31, 2014

MEMO TO: Steven Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: Thomas Spatz, Pantex Site Representative
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending January 31, 2014

DNFSB Staff on Site: J. Deplitch and M. Helfrich were at the Pantex Plant this week to observe the emergency response exercise (EMEX 13-1).

High Pressure Fire Loop (HPFL) Update: Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Pantex, LLC (B&W) has completed the construction project to replace HPFL lead-in piping for three nuclear facilities. B&W placed these facilities in repair mode in August 2013, and placed a lock out/tag out (LO/TO) on the valve connecting the HPFL to these facilities. On Tuesday, B&W removed the lock. B&W is performing the 3-year Deluge System Full Flow Test surveillance requirement on these facilities before placing them in operational status.

In December 2013, the NNSA Production Office (NPO) Site Office Manager approved Critical Decision 4 for the High Pressure Fire Loop Zone 12 South Material Access Area and the construction of two new HPFL pump houses and tanks. (See report for 12/27/2013.) The Site Representative reported that B&W had placed the jockey pumps from the two new pump houses into service; however B&W has subsequently taken the pumps out of service. This week, B&W has placed a LO/TO on one of the pump houses so that the subcontractor that performed the installation can perform valve replacement of the check valve for the jockey pump.

NPO Y-12 personnel were at the Pantex Plant this week to perform an independent assessment of B&W's Fire Protection Program. The review team's report was not published at the time of this report.

High Hold Point during Repackaging: B&W is repackaging components from AL-R8 containers into AL-R8 Sealed Insert containers. During this process, Production Technicians (PTs) perform routine radiological swipes to look for contamination on the component being repackaged. This week, the PTs evacuated the facility and contacted radiation safety, as required by procedure, when the readings of one of these swipes indicated contamination. No radiation alarm was activated. B&W radiation safety personnel entered the facility and performed additional swipes, including swipes of the surrounding area. The readings recorded by the radiation safety personnel were an order of magnitude less than the original readings, and they cleared the facility for re-entry. B&W determined there was no contamination of tooling or personnel, and that the source of the high reading was radon.

Mass Properties Machine Calibration: Late this week, B&W Metrology personnel discovered that the as-found calibration constants for a particular mass properties machine had been changed since they were established during the last calibration in August 2013. B&W will hold an event critique next week.