

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 19, 2014

MEMO TO: Steven Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: Thomas Spatz, Pantex Site Representative
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending September 19, 2014

DNFSB Staff on Site: B. Laake was at Pantex this week to observe the kick-off meeting of the falling man independent review panel.

Technical Safety Requirement (TSR) Violation: Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC (CNS) declared a TSR violation for a move of high explosives that had not been authorized. The TSR states that the Pantex Material Move System is used to authorize moves of this type of explosives. This move originated from a location on plant without a classified computer with Integrated Program Planning and Execution System (IPRO) access. CNS personnel were required to call a dispatcher at a classified computer, obtain the authorization number from IPRO, and write the number on the paperwork. In this event, CNS personnel did not obtain an authorization number. Due to past events, CNS requires manager verification that the material listed on the paperwork matches the material being moved; however there is no independent verification that an authorization number has been obtained for moves done by phone dispatch.

Potential Inadequacy of the Safety Analysis (PISA) and Positive Unreviewed Safety Question (USQ) for Mass Properties Operations: CNS declared a PISA when they discovered that the Mass Properties Safety Analysis Report does not contain a falling man analysis for the scenario where a unit is sitting on the scale. CNS has upgraded the declared PISA to a positive USQ determination, due to the increase in probability of an accident previously evaluated and an increase in probability of a malfunction of equipment important to safety. CNS paused mass properties operations on two weapon programs. CNS submitted a Justification for Continued Operation (JCO) to the NNSA Production Office (NPO) with a compensatory measure to fasten the unit to the scale fixture using existing mounting holes on the unit. CNS is still working to address a previous positive USQ determination on the mass properties transfer cart. (See report for 8/15/2014.) The Safety Evaluation Report issued by NPO to address that positive USQ determination restricted mass properties operations on one weapon program to only weight measurements, but these are now paused.

Positive Unreviewed Safety Question (USQ) for Electro-Static Dissipation (ESD) Scenario Update: This week, CNS downgraded the Potential Inadequacy of the Safety Analysis (PISA) on one weapon program to a negative USQ determination. This was the fifth weapon program out of six to be evaluated. Two weapon programs remain paused due to the previously declared positive USQ determinations. (See report for 9/5/2014.)

Pause of Nuclear Explosive Operations: CNS paused nuclear explosive operations in four individual facilities for four different reasons. In one event, production technicians discovered a bolt on the floor that was determined to come from a pulley located under the assembly cart. In another event, the production technicians discovered a stripped screw on a unit. In the third event, production technicians had to stop the operation when they discovered a mounting block had been installed 180 degrees out of orientation. In the fourth event, the production technicians paused when they determined clearance between two pieces of tooling didn't look as expected.