

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 24, 2015

MEMO TO: Steven Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: Jennifer Meszaros, Acting Pantex Site Representative
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending July 24, 2015

Conduct of Operations: On July 21, 2015, Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC (CNS) paused dismantlement work on one weapon program after a Production Technician (PT) lost her footing on a slippery spot on the floor of a nuclear explosive cell and went down to one knee and one hand. The PT lost her footing outside of a newly- taped exclusion area on the floor that CNS implemented to address falling man hazard scenarios (see 4/10/15 report). Although CNS is not performing a critique on the event, a group of subject matter experts within CNS operations provided several recommendations for immediate corrective actions (e.g., visual inspections to ensure that the floor and floor coverings are clean and not degraded and the path to the workstand is free of obstacles). CNS plans to perform these corrective actions before resuming nuclear explosive operations in this cell.

Additionally, on July 23, 2015, the acting site representative observed PT training on draft procedure changes that CNS initiated after a PT mis-stepped while performing a special tooling lift (see 7/17/2015 report). Training included discussions on the changed procedure steps and simulations of the impacted work steps in a training bay. Work remains paused on the affected weapon program.

Pause in Operations due to Needed Repair in an Enhanced Transportation Cart: On July 22, 2015, CNS paused operations in one facility after a PT identified a loose set screw on an enhanced transportation cart. Operations related to the component contained in the cart have been paused until a nuclear explosive engineering procedure is issued to repair the cart. The acting site representative inspected the cart in use as well as a cart without this defect to better understand the needed repair.

Update: Mechanical Impact Scenario: On July 16, 2015, CNS resumed cut and cap operations on one of two weapon programs (see 7/17/15 report). While performing walkdowns on July 22, 2015, the acting site representative discussed necessary cap changes while inspecting an unmodified cap and discussed implemented procedural changes with an NNSA Production Office (NPO) Facility Representative. The Safety Evaluation Report associated with the second program is expected to be issued next week.

Nuclear Explosive Safety Management Program Review: During the week of July 20, 2015, NPO personnel in conjunction with the NNSA Associate Administrator for Safety, Infrastructure, and Operations performed a review of the CNS nuclear explosive safety management program. The acting site representative attended the closeout brief on July 23, 2015. The review team provided their tentative observations at the closeout brief.