

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 7, 2015

TO: S. A. Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: Michael Dunlevy, Acting Pantex Plant Site Representative
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Weekly Report for Week Ending August 7, 2015

PT3746 Tester Issue Update: On July 23, 2015, during a Tester Safety Specification review, Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) identified that the PT3746 tester drawing and hardware contained components that did not match the recommended wattage in the design calculation. (See report dated July 31, 2015, for more information.) In response, Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC (CNS) personnel paused operations involving the tester and have updated the drawings and installed components with the recommended wattage in the Tester. On August 3, 2015, a Nuclear Explosive Safety Study Group completed their evaluation for this change and concluded that the proposed revision did not pose any nuclear explosive safety issues. Their evaluation did not contain any findings or minority opinions. The extent of condition review to evaluate all testers is ongoing. Further, the acting site representative notes that CNS personnel did not enter the discrepancy that SNL identified into their Unreviewed Safety Question process to determine whether a Potential Inadequacy of the Safety Analysis (PISA) existed.

PISA Declaration on Insertion Cart: On August 4, 2015, CNS declared a PISA regarding an Insertion Cart. On July 28, 2015, during a De-Insertion process, the Insertion Cart was inadvertently loaded with the weight of the unit plus the weight of the Assembly Stand. The weight applied exceeded the calculated design load for the Insertion Cart. Production Technicians promptly removed the abnormal loads from the Insertion Cart, and CNS personnel paused operations. The disassembly activities on this unit remain paused. This event was related to the Conduct of Operations event discussed in the July 31, 2015, site representative weekly report.

Material Move Events: On July 23, 2015, CNS personnel moved seven trackable energetic materials from one facility to another. However, due to errors in the disassembly and packaging processes, the personnel entered a value of zero for the items' weights into the Integrated Program Planning and Execution System (IPRO). Having accurate weights in IPRO for these materials is important to safety because many facilities have safety limits on the quantity of materials that can be stored in them. On July 28 and 29, 2015, an energetic item was moved twice with the incorrect serial identification number entered into IPRO. Following these events, CNS personnel updated IPRO with the correct weights and serial numbers for the applicable energetic materials. No material limits for affected facilities were exceeded and no Technical Safety Requirements were violated as a result of these events.