

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 27, 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: W. White, Pantex Site Representative
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending December 27, 2002

DNFSB Activity Summary: The Pantex Plant was closed all week for the Christmas Holiday. W. White was on leave Tuesday through Friday.

Storage of Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators (RTGs): The *Technical Safety Requirements for Pantex Facilities* (TSRs) mandate the storage of RTGs in certified DOT Type B shipping containers. In 2000, DOE began actions to remove the shipping certification for the 6M containers in which the RTGs are stored. A November 24, 2000, weekly report by the Board's Pantex Site Representatives noted that removal of the certification was expected and that the Pantex Plant contractor would need to take appropriate actions to change the TSRs and reestablish a safety basis for storage of the RTGs. The final DOE decision to withdraw the shipping certification for normal form plutonium in a 6M package occurred in April 2001. No action was ever taken by BWXT to change its safety basis in response. PXS0 and BWXT chose not to consider this a violation of the TSRs; instead, BWXT will submit a change package, amending appropriate documents in the Pantex Plant safety basis to define a new safety basis for the storage of RTGs. [II.A]

Sitewide Safety Analysis Report: PXS0 approved the most recent addition to the *Sitewide Safety Analysis Report* for Pantex. The new chapters address the administrative programs for hazardous materials, initial in-service testing and maintenance, operational safety, and procedures and training. The PXS0 approval of these chapters contained a single post-start condition of approval to include additional information on the hazardous material program prior to the next scheduled revision of the document. [II.A]