

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 13, 2013

MEMO To: Steven Stokes, Acting Technical Director
FROM: Thomas Spatz, Pantex Site Representative
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending September 13, 2013

Board Staff Activities: This week, T. Hunt was at the Pantex Plant to observe NNSA Production Office Facility Representative Program self-assessment.

Common Control Note Linkage Error: This week, Babcock & Wilcox Pantex (B&W) declared a Potential Inadequacy of the Safety Analysis (PISA) and then rescinded the PISA the following day, after receiving additional information from the Design Agency (DA). The DA sent formal communication to B&W in the form of an Information Engineering Release (IER), that there were inconsistencies associated with the application of common control notes during the development of one weapon program's weapon response summary document. (See report for 9/6/2013.) The DA identified instances where common control note linkage for electro-static discharge hazard scenarios was missing and instances where the linkage was inappropriately applied. B&W declared the PISA because of concerns that weapon responses for worker safety may be affected by the removal of the common control note. The DA revised the IER to reinstate the common control note linkage that was removed by the original release of the IER. B&W rescinded the PISA after receiving the revised IER from the DA. B&W has not operated on units with the specific electro-static discharge worker safety concern.

Technical Safety Requirement (TSR) Violation for Material Move: This week, B&W declared a TSR violation when Supply Chain management personnel moved special nuclear material components on-site with too many components on the pallet. B&W has two approved containers for transportation of radioisotopic thermoelectric generators (RTGs); a Department of Transportation (DOT) 6M (6M) and an H-1700 Type B (H-1700). The 6M container is permitted to carry one RTG and the H-1700 is permitted to carry two. The TSR was developed when the 6M was the only container for transporting RTGs. The TSR specifies only 9 RTGs may be transported on a pallet in order to limit the containers to one layer and minimize the pallet tie-down requirements. When the H-1700 container was approved for use, B&W changed the safety requirements for on-site transportation procedure to incorporate the new containers but never changed the TSR. This led to a condition where the procedure established the number of containers allowed on a pallet, and the TSR limited the number of RTGs on the pallet. This week, B&W loaded two pallets with five H-1700 containers and exceeded the TSR limit of RTGs per pallet. B&W pause on-site movements of H-1700 containers and is revising the TSR.

Integrated Program Planning and Execution System (IPRO) Material Move Event: Last week, B&W's operations center reported that a material move was overdue. The B&W Production Technicians had received custody of the component at the destination facility without incident but IPRO did not update the status correctly. The Operation Center personnel paged the Move Right subject matter expert (SME) because their system was showing the material was not received at the destination. The Move Right SME and the Production Section Manager physically verified that the material was in the destination location, and notified the operation center. The Move Right SME resolved the discrepancy in the IPRO system. The material was unaccounted for approximately 15 minutes and the move was internal to the Material Access Area.