

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

MEMO TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Timothy Hunt and Dave Kupferer, Pantex Site Representatives
DATE: 16 February 2007
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Weekly Report

DNFSB Activity: Staff members M. Moury and R. Rauch and outside expert D. Boyd were onsite this week to observe nuclear explosive operations and assess conduct of operations.

W88 Cell Operations Restart Project (CORP): The final units that were within the scope of the disassembly and inspection portion of the CORP were completed this week.

Configuration Management of the Safety Basis: Last week, BWXT completed an assessment of approved safety basis change packages and their incorporation in the record copies of the documented safety analyses. The assessment report identified several inaccuracies that can be attributed to poor configuration management. BWXT is in the process of developing a long-term corrective action plan. In the interim, BWXT is requiring that the incorporation of approved safety basis change packages into the record copies of the documented safety analyses be peer reviewed by either of two designated senior safety basis analysts.

End State Documented Safety Analyses (DSA) Project: BWXT submitted a revision to the End State DSA Project Plan to PXSO two weeks ago. The End State DSA project affects sitewide and facility-specific DSAs, not weapon program hazard analysis reports. The project will be considered complete once unimplemented controls are made effective, the backlog of safety basis change packages are posted, and legacy documents (i.e. Fire BIO, Lightning BIO, etc.) are archived. The final task of the project is for BWXT to perform a detail review of the DSAs. BWXT currently expects that the aforementioned tasks will not be completed until fiscal year 2008 at the earliest.

W87 Trainer Refurbishment: During W87 SS-21 development, it was noted that some trainer units were in degraded conditions. NNSA recently authorized Pantex to ship two trainer units to Y-12 for refurbishment.

Nuclear Explosive Safety (NES) Staffing: NNSA has established a second NES position at Pantex. The selectee was chosen from within PXSO and will report to NA-121.2 upon assuming the new responsibilities next week. This should improve the NES line oversight capability, which was reduced following PXSO's reorganization last summer.

NES Master Studies: During the Paint Bay NES Master Study in early 2005, the NES study group identified a "special" finding that a master study of the Pantex tooling program needed to be performed. In response to the finding, PXSO approved a new schedule for NNSA to perform five master studies by the end of FY07. Of the three master studies that were scheduled to have been completed by now, only the Approved Equipment Program Master Study – the scope included the tooling program – has been performed.

Facility Personnel Limits: BWXT has established a personnel limit of 16 for nuclear explosive cells based on criteria in DOE M 440.1-1A, *DOE Explosives Safety Manual*. This week, BWXT reduced the personnel limit for the cell used for W88 operations to six persons for the stated purpose of minimizing distractions during recovery operations. The lower personnel limit could deter responsible personnel from overseeing the subject operations. BWXT has assured the site representatives that the new limit will not preclude them from performing their duties.