

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

MEMO TO: J. Kent Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: Timothy Hunt and Dave Kupferer, Pantex Site Representatives
DATE: Friday, May 27, 2005
SUBJECT: Pantex Weekly Report

Technical Safety Requirements Integrated Implementation Plan (TSRIIP): PXSO recently completed an assessment of nine TSRIIP controls recently implemented by BWXT. The review team identified issues not found by the contractor's readiness assessment, which could have resulted in future TSR violations if not corrected. The PXSO report noted that concerns are growing with respect to the content and adequacy of TSRs and recommended further review upon completion of TSRIIP actions. A previous assessment of implemented controls noted a decrease in the effectiveness of the readiness preparation process. Little improvement in the quality of the BWXT readiness activity was observed during this assessment.

Readiness Reviews: Over the past few months, PXSO has discovered inadequacies in BWXT's preparation for the following readiness reviews: automated guided vehicle, pit cleaning, and technical safety requirement control implementation. PXSO has formally requested that BWXT perform a root cause assessment and determine corrective actions.

Conduct of Operations: BWXT initiated a root cause analysis this week to address several recent events where conduct of operations was found to be deficient. The draft charter indicates that the scope will be focused on the four events noted in the recent Board letter and an occurrence in the warehouse. The analysis is expected to take two to three weeks.

Zone 4 Thermal Monitoring: There is a technical safety requirement applicable to pit staging in Zone 4 magazines that requires hourly temperature monitoring if the ambient temperature is above 85° F and temperature auto-alert capability is disabled. BWXT was unaware that the auto-alert capability in two magazines, which were being used for pit storage, was not functioning. Consequently, when the ambient air temperature exceeded 85° F this week, BWXT failed to initiate hourly temperature monitoring. Subsequently, BWXT declared a TSR violation.

Credited Tooling: As of last week, the BWXT Tooling & Machine Design Department was approximately 50 percent complete in updating special tooling support documentation (Design Review Documents and Safety Data Sheets) for tools credited in the authorization basis, which is scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2005. The credited tooling list has grown to more than 200 tools over the past few months.

Quality Assurance Survey (QAS): Last week, NNSA conducted a QAS 1.0 assessment of BWXT's quality assurance program that focused on Weapon Quality Policy (QC-1) requirements. The general conclusion was that the BWXT quality assurance program is well documented and managed. Of the 26 requirements incorporated into the review, two were noted as non-compliant; timeliness for incorporating design changes is lacking and material in the warehouse is not being dispositioned promptly. The tooling program was outside the scope of this survey.

Office of Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance (OA) Findings: PXSO responded last week to several findings from the February 2005 OA review that applied to the site office. PXSO actions to improve tracking, closure, and validation of corrective actions include training on the use of the BWXT tracking system, developing a lessons learned program, and hiring an Industrial Safety Engineer to track lessons learned. PXSO intends to conduct self-assessments of both corrective action tracking and its lessons learned program.