

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 12, 2004

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Timothy Hunt and Dave Kupferer, Pantex Site Representatives  
**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending November 12, 2004

**DNFSB Staff Activities.** D. Kupferer reported for site representative duty on November 8, 2004.

**Recommendation 99-1, Safe Storage of Fissionable Material called "Pits".** BWXT has issued its Integrated Pit Repackaging Plan for fiscal years 2005-2007 which identifies major support activities to execution of the pit repackaging effort. During FY05, BWXT expects to complete repackaging of what it terms, "99-1 pits." It then plans to pursue repackaging of on-site residual pits; pits from dismantlements subsequent to submittal of the FY00 implementation plan. Several sub-projects must occur to repackage all 99-1 pits by the end of FY05, at which time the effort will transition to a new facility to complete the residual pits during FY06 and FY07. Key elements of the plan include pumpdown of W48 pits, W54 repackaging, W55 capping, implementation of pit cleaning, use of 2040 containers, and disposition of anomalous pits.

**Technical Safety Requirements (TSR) Implementation.** PXSO recently completed the first of a few planned readiness assessments to validate the implementation of effective TSR controls. Thirty-one controls were evaluated with the general conclusion that BWXT has done an adequate job of implementation. Findings related to training, configuration management, requirements flowdown, and procedures were noted. Another 50 plus effective controls are in the queue for PXSO validation next month.

**B83 Nuclear Explosive Safety Study.** The B83 NESS Kickoff Meeting began at Pantex this week without a representative from the site office on the NESS team. The newly issued DOE-STD-3015-2004, *Nuclear Explosive Safety Evaluation Process*, requires PXSO provide a NESS team member for Pantex evaluations. The only NESS certified individual within PXSO has not participated in the NESS due to funding and resource reasons. Subsequently, the individual was assigned as a member of the team and PXSO intends to formally request an exemption or change to the standard in the future.

**Tooling-Related Events.** A few issues relating to tooling impacted operations this week and required engineering evaluation. During one operation, a pit tube inadvertently contacted a nozzle assembly, bending the tube significantly. Other events concerned a lifting fixture being oriented improperly, preventing removal of a unit from a transport cart, and a maintenance sticker on a workstand containing incorrect information. An NNSA independent assessment team begins its on-site review of the Pantex Plant tooling program next week.

**Special Nuclear Facility Component Requalification Facility (SNMCRF).** The SNMCRF scope consists of modifying an existing facility and installing 11 process workstations by April 2006 to recertify and requalify pits for the W76 life extension program. Recently, the PXSO Site Manager provided CD-3 approval for procurement of four workstations: the leak test, marking, and cleaning stations, as well as a fluorescent penetrant worktable. A previously approved CD-3 authorized four other workstations and a future request for approval will be made for the remaining three process workstations. PXSO has expressed concerns that development and fabrication of the workstations will not be completed in a manner to begin timely acceptance/start-up.