

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

February 11, 2000

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

**FROM:** T. Dwyer and H. Waugh, Pantex Site Representatives

**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending February 11, 2000

**DNFSB Activity Summary:** H. Waugh was on leave all week. T. Dwyer was on site all week. Board members J. T. Conway, A. J. Eggenberger, J. J. DiNunno, and J. E. Mansfield, plus staff members J. K. Fortenberry, J. McConnell, W. Andrews, J. Blackman, T. Burns, C. Martin, and W. White were on site Tuesday-Thursday in conjunction with Wednesday's public meeting.

**Public Meeting:** Board members visited the Pantex Site Tuesday through Thursday to observe operations, and receive updates on Recommendations 98-2, *Safety Management at the Pantex Plant*, and 99-1, *Safe Storage of Fissionable Material Called "Pits,"* lightning protection project status, and readiness review processes. On Wednesday evening, the Board conducted a public meeting in a "town hall" format, to provide an opportunity for members of the public, the DOE, and its contractor employees or their representatives to comment on or provide information about health or safety issues at the Pantex Plant. Nearly 70 people attended the meeting, which lasted the full 2 hours for which it was scheduled. Over 3 dozen questions or comments were discussed, ranging in subject matter from the mechanics of Board recommendations and budgets, to specific hazards faced by past or present defense nuclear complex workers (e.g., hazardous chemicals, radiation exposure, Beryllium), to potential safety issues at the Pantex Plant (e.g., cell safety features, procedural compliance concerns, electro-static discharge controls).<sup>[III.A]</sup>

**Pit Issues:** This week, the Design Agencies conducted an Engineering Evaluation (EE) of AL-R8 Sealed Insert (SI) Pit Repackaging Line operations. The purpose of this (EE) was to determine whether M&H would be authorized to repackage pits from the B28, W48, B57, B61, and W70 families -- these families of pits were not included in previous authorizations. The EE was concluded successfully, with 1 pre-start finding -- related to several pits being specially packaged to support the gathering of thermal data. M&H expects to receive the Engineering Release from the Design Agencies early next week. At that point, M&H will be authorized to repackage all pits that will fit in the 2030 version of the AL-R8 SI.<sup>[III.A]</sup>