

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 31, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR: J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director

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

SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending March 31, 2000

DNFSB Activity Summary: H. Waugh was on site all week. T. Dwyer was on leave on Monday-Wednesday, and on site Thursday-Friday.

Authorization Basis Issues: The Master Authorization Agreement (MAA) was signed by DOE-AL on last Friday, March 24th. Upon receipt of the signed document, M&H has declared the MAA fully implemented.^[II.A]

W79 Dismantlement Program: The M&H project team that is working to resolve the issues keeping the W79 Dissolution Workstation shut down is still developing their recovery plan. In the interim, Occurrence Report ALO-AO-MHSM-2000-0029 has been filed to document the Potential Inadequacy in the Safety Analysis (PISA). LLNL has sent a memorandum to M&H indicating that they do not believe the HMX/DMSO exudate poses a hazard, but M&H management remains unconvinced. M&H has also informed AAO that the “latest” and the “revised” Design Agency drawings of the workstation do not represent the as-built condition.^[II.A]

Pit Issues: M&H continues to strive to improve the throughput on the AL-R8 Sealed Insert (SI) repackaging program. In support of that goal, all equipment associated with the repackaging line originally located in Building 12-99 is in the final stages of set-up in Building 12-64. A final walkdown of the facility is currently scheduled for next Tuesday, after which this relocated repackaging line will begin operations, while the existing Building 12-64 repackaging line will be shut down [for ~1 week] for vacuum systems upgrades. AL-R8 SI repackaging will therefore continue operating on 1 line for at least 1 more week -- throughput this week was 8. The stretch goal for FL container unpackaging in Building 12-99 was to finish the last of them by today. M&H achieved this target, with the exception of 1 FL container that is on hold for evaluation of a minor mechanical insult suffered in Zone 4.^[II.A]

Lightning Issues: AAO concern with M&H progress on the Lightning BIO resulted in several senior management meetings, as well as a personal inspection of lightning controls on the shop floor by the AAO Manager and senior M&H personnel. Of note, a significant amount of the time was spent discussing the reasons behind the increased emphasis on lightning controls with the PTs present in each facility being visited. It appeared that some of PT’s evident frustrations with the new “restrictions” (i.e., lightning controls) stemmed from a lack of information on the scope of the lightning hazard, and a lack of PT involvement in the development of appropriate controls. On Friday, AAO issued a letter to M&H extending the Lightning JCO to May 11th. Milestones to be achieved in this JCO window include delivery of the BIO and associated TSR changes to AAO by next Tuesday. AAO then expects to take the rest of the week (and weekend, if necessary) to review the proposal and develop their safety evaluation report (SER), with final evaluation and [projected] signature by the AAO Manager on Wednesday, April 12th. Of note, the AAO manager is also requiring that M&H submit a phased implementation plan for the lightning controls, as a companion document to the BIO. AAO expects M&H to complete the phased implementation before the extended JCO expires. In the mean time, AAO is requiring that the bulk of the lightning controls be implemented by April 14th.^[II.A]