

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 28, 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 April 28, 2000

DNFSB Activity Summary: H. Waugh and T. Dwyer were on site all week. C. Keilers and W. Linzau were on site Tuesday-Thursday reviewing cell design features.

Sitewide Technical Safety Requirements (TSRs): AAO conducted the outbrief for the post-implementation Sitewide TSRs Readiness Assessment (RA) on Tuesday. Tentatively, 2 issues have been identified as Category A findings, meaning they are violations of the TSRs and require documentation/follow-up via the Occurrence Reporting System: 1] the facility hoist In-Service Inspection program is not adequate; and 2] the facility material limits in the TSRs are not congruent [in all cases] with those in operational use. There were also 22 Category B [i.e., post-start] findings, and 2 observations. AAO expects to issue their final report by May 10th.^[III.A]

AL-R8 Sealed Insert (SI) Repackaging Line: M&H has 2 AL-R8 SI procurement populations on site, and it appears that only canisters from 1 vendor have the surface corrosion problem that led to shutting down the repackaging lines. M&H developed a cleaning procedure for the AL-R8 SIs from this vendor that are already on site, and began a 100% inspection and cleaning program for the [ready] inventory on Monday. Of note, the canister population from the 2nd vendor is not readily usable at this time either -- M&H must replace all of the purge & backfill valves before they will meet specifications. A statistically based sample of this 2nd population will be taken to confirm that no corrosion problems exist. Wednesday, AL-R8 SI Repackaging operations resumed. Of note, ~600 AL-R8 SIs from the 1st population already contain pits. These will be allowed to remain in storage. M&H intended to use the normal container surveillance program as the mechanism that would eventually drive these units through the cleaning process. AAO has recognized that this will require modification of the originally proposed surveillance sampling scheme, and has therefore directed M&H to develop a change to the *AL-R8 SI Surveillance Plan*. AL-R8 SI throughput was only 4 this week.^[III.A]

Funding Impacts on Recommendation Implementation Plans (IPs): On Wednesday, AAO and M&H met with DP-20 to provide revised FY '00, '01, and '02 budgets, recognizing that no supplemental appropriations will be available this year. DP-20 stated that Recommendation IPs affected by this funding issue include 94-1, 97-2, 98-2, and 99-1. For example, with regard to the Recommendation 99-1 IP, under this assumption, there is no funding to procure the AL-R8 SIs that are required to support 2-line-2-shift operations in FY '01. Further, the latest outyear decrement lists show no AL-R8 SI procurement funds available in FY '01 or '02. Under this assumption, M&H is planning to ramp up to a 200 pits/month rate to prove it is achievable, then drop back to ~100 pits/month [2-lines, 1-shift-each operations] for the rest of this year, and through next year until the current AL-R8 SI inventory is exhausted. Interestingly, the FY '01 decrement list reveals that W62 D&I efforts are being funded next year, despite DOE promises to the Board that the W62 line would be shut down pending completion of the SS-21 Step 2 process immediately following completion of the current D&I cycle.^[III.A]

Cell Design Features: A significant amount of data exists in support of cell design features, including analyses from 3 1957 full-scale tests, 1 1982 full-scale test, and several smaller scale tests. An information report will be filed separately.^[III.A]

W76 Readiness Issues: M&H, AAO, and DOE-AL have agreed: the W76 contractor RA will resume on Monday, running through next Friday. The tooling that requires rework [per LANL] will be carried as an open pre-start finding; SNL objections have been withdrawn.^[III.A]