

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 5, 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 May 5, 2000

DNFSB Activity Summary: H. Waugh and T. Dwyer were on site all week.

Authorization Basis Issues: The EH-2 Authorization Basis Evaluation Group has completed their 2 week visit, conducting interviews and reviewing documents. The Group Leader made a brief presentation to AAO Friday morning, although a return visit to allow for a factual accuracy review of their report, and a formal outbriefing, is scheduled for the week of May 22nd. The Group Leader indicated that, while there would be opportunities for improvement and observations listed, for the most part, the site appeared to be making improvements in the authorization basis area as compared to the 1996 EH-2 review. In particular, the site Authorization Basis Manual was cited as showing positive guidance, the trend in the quality of HARs being submitted was evaluated as improving, and the Lightning BIO was a major step forward in establishing sitewide controls. The Group did identify concerns with the adequacy of the training and information being provided to the PTs on site, adding that confusion on the part of those individuals particularly responsible for implementing authorization basis controls was an issue that required immediate correction.^[II.A]

Lightning Issues: On Monday, M&H submitted a letter to AAO requesting a revision to their schedule for implementation of the Lightning BIO. As part of the revision, M&H requested that the final implementation date be delayed, and the Lightning JCO be extended to June 16th. AAO has objected to this request. Before approving any extensions, AAO is requiring that M&H provide significantly more detail on those action items being delayed, justification regarding the cause and duration of each delay, and an assessment of the risk incurred by accepting each delay. The original date for Lightning BIO implementation was April 1st; the currently effective schedule shows implementation by next Thursday, May 11th.^[II.A]

W76 Readiness Issues: The W76 contractor Readiness Assessment resumed 1st thing Monday morning, picking up with a demonstration of cell operations, and completing mass properties demonstrations and interviews by Thursday. An outbriefing was conducted Friday, although the final report will probably not be issued until next Wednesday. The preliminary count was 19 pre-start findings and 3 post-start findings. Of the pre-start findings, 1 is actually a placeholder for the 4 open Conditions of Approval on the HAR/ABCD, and the other is associated with the Mid Cap Disassembly Fixture at issue with LANL. The issues raised, then withdrawn, by SNL were not addressed. The Readiness Assessment Team noted with dismay that a significant number of findings were related to tooling issues, yet tooling was advertised as the strength of an SS-21 program. Generic concerns were also raised regarding preparation of satellite facilities to support new weapons programs, and the quality of the M&H Technical Assist [i.e., Management Self Assessment] program. As a corrective measure, the Team intends to observe the Level II training conducted for PTs after each finding involving tooling is addressed. On a positive note, the Team singled out the PTs on this program, and the NEOPs, as being the best in recent contractor Readiness Assessment history.^[II.A]

AL-R8 Sealed Insert (SI) Repackaging Line: M&H operated 2 shifts on the AL-R8 SI Repackaging Lines this week, while 1 shift cleaned AL-R8 SI inventory. Throughput was 22.^[II.A]