

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 19, 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 19, 2000

DNFSB Activity Summary: H. Waugh was on site all week. T. Dwyer was on site Monday-Wednesday, and on leave Thursday-Friday. J. McConnell and W. Andrews were on site Monday-Tuesday discussing a proposed revision to the Recommendation 98-2 IP.

Recommendation 98-2: DOE-AL, AAO, and members of the Board's staff reviewed a DOE-proposed revision to the Recommendation 98-2 Implementation Plan. Both DOE and the Board's staff agree that the rate of progress and the number of outstanding commitments under the current Implementation Plan warrant the need for such a revision. Based on the discussions, DOE intends to rework some sections of the revision, with the intention of distributing the document for internal review next week.^[II.A]

Lightning Issues: M&H has now formally declared a Potential Inadequacy in the Safety Analysis (PISA) related to the static potential monitoring system (SPMS), which is a subset of the Lightning Detection and Warning System. Questions had been raised regarding the pedigree of the setpoints used to declare lightning warnings -- these questions were raised to a higher octave after DP-45 analysis of SPMS data could not show any correlation between static potential readings and known lightning activity.^[II.A]

W88 Existing Operations Reauthorization Program: The W88 Safety Evaluation Report (SER), Revision 1, has been signed by the AAO Manager, thus approving the W88 HAR and ABCD. The SER contains 10 conditions of approval -- 4 of which are a direct carry-over of the conditions levied on the W76 D&I Program. Two of the conditions essentially represent AAO acceptance of M&H commitments from the HAR/ABCD transmittal letter, with regard to the W88 Program meeting Lightning BIO controls/faraday cage configuration requirements, and updating the W88 Technical Support Document hazard table. The SER also identifies 7 additional actions that M&H must take, although they can be deferred until after program start-up. A copy of the SER has been forwarded to the Board's staff for review.^[II.A]

AL-R8 Sealed Insert (SI) Repackaging Line: Both of the AL-R8 SI Repackaging Lines' imaging station motor controllers continue to undergo repair -- it is projected that both lines will remain down until next week. Therefore, this week M&H PTs concentrated on repackaging of thermistored pits into AL-R8 SIs [no imaging required] and AL-R8 SI cleaning. All necessary thermistored pits for thermal testing in Zone 4 are now ready, and over half of the AL-R8 SI ready inventory that required cleaning [~325] is now ready to use. Note that over 600 AL-R8 SIs in this lot had already been placed into use before the cleaning requirement was invoked, and will have to be cleaned under a separate program. In the mean time, inspection of the mod-FL containers used to transfer pits between sites has revealed that a significant portion of them fail at least 1 dimensional check. M&H will be submitting a complete inspection plan to AAO on Monday. Under an interim path forward approved by DOE-AL this past Wednesday, M&H was allowed to recertify mod-FL containers that passed 2 out of 3 dimensional checks. On Thursday, M&H reported that bids for the next lot of AL-R8 SIs had been received from the prospective vendors -- a letter was submitted to AAO formally requesting the necessary funding. Given the funding situation already briefed to the Board, it is not clear how DOE will respond.^[II.A]