

# DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 23, 2000

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director

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

**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending June 23, 2000

**DNFSB Activity Summary:** T. Dwyer, H. Waugh, and W. White were on site all week. M. Helfrich and Outside Expert R. Lewis were on site all week observing the ISMS Verification.

**B61 Mod 10 Project:** The B61 Mod 10 Project DOE Readiness Assessment (RA) concluded this week, reporting 2 pre-start and 1 post-start findings. The 1<sup>st</sup> pre-start finding is related to inadequate traceability of controls in the project AB documents [i.e., the associated JCO and hazard analysis]. In particular, M&H did not adequately address 3 of the Conditions of Approval levied by AAO in the SER that approved the JCO. The 2<sup>nd</sup> pre-start finding is a compilation of procedural changes that M&H must address, including a requirement that the M&H General Manager justify each use of flammable solvents in the presence of the nuclear explosive prior to final approval of the NEOP and NEEP. The post-start finding is related to programmatic control of lightning-related design features [i.e., Faraday cage penetrations].<sup>[III.A]</sup>

**Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) Verification:** The Phase II ISMS Verification, scheduled to be conducted from June 19<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>, is in progress. Several potential issues have been identified and are currently being verified by the team. The team is attempting to compress the verification from the typical 2 weeks to the shorter period allotted.<sup>[III.A]</sup>

**Recommendation 98-2:** On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Board sent a letter to DP-1 indicating that DOE should reassess its plans for weapons systems that involved implementing SS-21 in a 2-step process. This week, the Site Representatives have learned that DOE-AL (ONDP) has decided to continue the 2-step SS-21 program for the W78.<sup>[III.A]</sup>

**Pit Issues:** When maintenance personnel arrived at the equipment room for the 12-99 facility this week, they discovered that the HVAC system was putting 110°F air into bay 4. Further investigation revealed that the in-line restrictor in the instrument air line was effectively plugged, and the sensor/transmitter in the bay was malfunctioning. The system is now repaired; more detailed monitoring is underway to verify normal operation. Meanwhile, today AAO signed out a letter directing M&H to formalize controls to prevent similar events in the future.<sup>[III.A]</sup>

**W88 Program:** This month's M&H IWAP Status Report states that the W88 schedule must slip 24 additional weeks. At least 6 weeks of that slip is blamed on AAO insistence that NEOPs be in final form and PT training be complete before the contractor declares readiness for the DOE Readiness Assessment -- M&H is apparently viewing this as a new requirement.<sup>[III.A]</sup>

**Facility Representative Program:** AAO conducted Facility Representative oral examinations (final qualification) for 2 candidates on Tuesday. Both candidates passed, raising the total number of fully qualified Facility Representatives at Pantex to 8. The oral examination board conducted itself in a professional manner, and the conclusions reached in both cases, including specified remedial training requirements, captured the Site Representatives' concerns. These were the 1<sup>st</sup> oral examinations conducted under Mr. D. Glenn's tenure.<sup>[I.B]</sup>

**AL-R8 Sealed Insert (SI) Repackaging Line:** M&H has cleaned the etching acid from all ready inventory AL-R8 SIs. Repackaging throughput was higher this week -- 35 pits.<sup>[II.A]</sup>