

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

July 28, 2000

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** J. K. Fortenberry, Technical Director  
**FROM:** H. Waugh and W. White, Pantex Site Representatives  
**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending July 28, 2000

**DNFSB Activity Summary:** T. Dwyer and H. Waugh were on site all week. W. White was on travel Monday and on site Tuesday through Friday. On Friday, W. White formally relieved T. Dwyer as Pantex Site Representative. H. Waugh remains on duty with W. White.

**B61 Mod 10 Project:** The limited life component has been removed.<sup>[II.A]</sup>

**Recommendation 99-1 Issues:** Last week, M&H management had directed AL-R8 Sealed Insert (SI) Repackaging Line supervisors to drive the program to a throughput rate of 100 pits/month. That direction has now been superceded: the AL-R8 SI throughput goal for August will be 150 pits. This is still not in line with the Secretary's Recommendation 99-1 commitment. Of note, M&H has expressed concern with reaching the goal of 200 pits/month: even were sufficient funding available today, there are not sufficient numbers of trained, cleared personnel available to operate 2-lines-2-shifts. Without taking resources from other DP programs, a repackaging rate of 200 pits/month is not considered achievable before March '01.<sup>[III.A]</sup>

**W76 D&I Program:** Wednesday the Standing Management Team (SMT) conducted a Milestone 3 Review of the W76 D&I program. The purpose of this review was to ensure that all of the requisite activities leading to the commencement of the DOE NESS and Readiness Assessment (RA) have been completed. Members of the SMT commented on the paucity of technical content relative to the W76 program in many of the prepared briefings. SMT members were able to drive probing discussions of many key issues. The LANL tooling issue on the Mid-Cap Disassembly Fixture was resolved shortly prior to the review. However, final resolution of the CSA issue was not addressed in this review. DOE expects that no new controls will be proposed as a result of CSA analyses, such that only modifications to existing controls might be anticipated. At the meeting's conclusion, each SMT member was polled by the Co-Chairman as to whether or not each of the Milestone 3 evaluation elements had been demonstrated adequately and that the program could proceed to the next phase. Approval by the members was obtained, and it is worthy to note that at times lively discussions accompanied the voting. The SMT agreed that the NESS could commence on its scheduled date of August 1, 2000. The SMT is withholding permission to proceed with the DOE RA until the CSA issue has been briefed to the Board and satisfactory resolution has been obtained.<sup>[III.A]</sup>

**W88 Program Step 1:** M&H presented options to DOE to recover the W88 Program schedule; none of them appeared acceptable:

- ! Start up with a full scope NESS Revalidation, but no Readiness Assessments (RAs);
- ! Start up with an old-style NESS Revalidation, and limited scope RAs;
- ! Start up with a limited scope contractor RA, full scope DOE RA, and old-style NESS Revalidation [but miss the delivery date]; or
- ! Start up with full scope RAs and NESS Revalidation [but miss the delivery date].

DOE-AL held firm on a requirements for a full NESS Revalidation and appropriate [defendable] scope RAs. M&H decided to rework their proposed schedule and resubmit.<sup>[III.A]</sup>

**Pantex Contract:** Tuesday morning, Secretary Richardson announced that DOE had selected BWXT Pantex to manage and operate the Pantex Plant. The transition period will begin August 15<sup>th</sup>, with BWXT assuming full control by October 1<sup>st</sup>. The impact on M&H key personnel [~10 individuals] is not yet clear; remaining personnel will be transitioned per the specific contract requirements.<sup>[I.B]</sup>