

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 9, 1999

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director

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

**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending April 9, 1999

**DNFSB Activity Summary:** H. Waugh and T. Dwyer were on site all week. W. Andrews and OE R. West were on site Tuesday-Friday observing the DOE W87 RE. A. Hadjian and C. Keilers were on site Tuesday-Wednesday conducting a seismic review. G. Cunningham, T. Burns, D. Grover, and OE L. McGrew were on site Tuesday-Wednesday for IPSPP reviews.

**W87 Program:** The DOE-AL W87 Readiness Evaluation (RE) was completed on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The RE was restricted to reviewing W87 authorization basis (AB) controls flow down, W87 AB training, change control/USQs, and W87 safety-related equipment/tooling controls. The RE reported 7 post-start findings: 4 findings in the flow down of AB controls; 2 in training on AB controls; and 1 with the failure of M&H personnel to properly evaluate the AB consequences of the recent tester occurrence. The start of the DOE-AL RE was delayed by an inability to resolve part of a M&H Readiness Review pre-start finding. This finding noted the lack of flow down of an LCO action step if an MSAD was found in an improper position. Proposals to correct this finding were disapproved, alternately by DOE-AL NES and line management personnel, in an apparent disagreement over who controls the determination of satisfying safety after a problem has occurred. The DOE-AL RE started late Tuesday, based on an M&H commitment to develop a compensatory measure (i.e., temporary procedure) while awaiting DOE resolution of the disagreement. In parallel with final resolution of this pre-start finding, M&H commenced work on the next unit. M&H plans to have all post-start findings from the M&H and DOE-AL reviews closed prior to proceeding past the units authorized in the current Authorization Agreement.

**Integrated Pit Storage Program Plan (IPSPP):** Board Staff members met with DOE-AL, AAO, Design Agency, and M&H personnel to discuss IPSPP issues. It was indicated that completion of pit repackaging into AL-R8 Sealed Insert (SI) containers may be delayed by up to 5 years due to funding shortfalls this FY and uncertain funding in the out-years. DOE has not fully evaluated the operational and safety impacts of these potential delays, although Design Agency personnel voiced significant concern. These delays could indicate erosion of DOE programmatic resolve to fulfill commitments expressed to the Board with regard to long standing pit storage safety issues. Additionally, several issues raised by Design Agency personnel involving incompatible container materials (i.e., carbon steel bolts, stainless steel containers, and copper gaskets in contact with Celotex) may result in corrosion-related issues. Of note, replacement of the Celotex packing, a source of moisture and chlorides, with more compatible foam has been raised repeatedly, bringing into question the ability of the AL-R8 SI project team to adequately track technical issues to closure. Also, authorization basis controls for pits with safety-related temperature limitations are not being pursued, though they continue to appear warranted. Finally, DOE continues to have difficulty incorporating a systems engineering approach into the development of functional requirements and acceptance criteria for the pit storage program, particularly in areas involving multiple DOE Assistant Secretaries.

**W56 Dismantlement Program:** All preparatory work is complete; PTs will attempt to loosen the primary-to-secondary joint on the 3<sup>rd</sup> W56 unit first thing Monday morning.