

# DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 3, 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 September 3, 1999

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

**AL-R8 Sealed Insert (SI):** M&H initiated full, 2-shift operations on the new packaging line in Building 12-99 with Monday's graveyard shift. The Purge & Backfill station has been repaired and is now operating properly -- all of the pits that had been in queue were completed.

Throughput is now averaging ~5 pits per day, matching the M&H single-line, 2-shift goal.<sup>[II.B.2.b]</sup>

**AT-400A Containers:** On July 7<sup>th</sup>, the 18 existing AT-400A pit packages were moved from Building 12-99 to 12-44 cell 2. [The space in Building 12-99 was required to accommodate the 2<sup>nd</sup> AL-R8 SI Pit Packaging Line.] On August 20<sup>th</sup>, air handling equipment in 12-44 cell 2 was turned off because of problems encountered with installing new roofing material [see last week's letter]. The M&H Nuclear Material Program Director did not become aware of the loss of air conditioning until 10 days later (August 30<sup>th</sup>). 1 temperature recorder in the cell indicates that the maximum ambient temperature realized during that interval was 87.4°F. The working ambient temperature limit for these AT-400As is 86°F. By Wednesday evening, the AT-400As were moved back to bays in Building 12-99; LLNL is currently evaluating the situation.<sup>[II.B.2.a]</sup>

**W79 Dismantlement Program:** Weld repairs to Work Station #1 are complete. M&H expects to continue the repair effort next week, to include insulation work, calibration, and development/execution of a test program. Earliest restart is projected for September 13<sup>th</sup>.<sup>[II.B.2.a]</sup>

**Lightning Issues:** The Lightning JCO was not delivered this week, and it is possible that continued delays will result in delivery coincident with the basis documents being developed to support the CSSM-to-TSR conversion. [The basis documents are due September 15<sup>th</sup>.] M&H is expecting that implementation of the lightning controls will require a period of time varying from ~45 days as part of a JCO, or until mid-December if combined as part of the TSRs.<sup>[II.B.2.b]</sup>

**W56 Dismantlement Program:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> primary of the first group of separated primaries was successfully disassembled this week. The concatenation of several allowable assembly deviations appears to have contributed to the difficulty experienced in dismantling this unit.<sup>[II.B.2.a]</sup>

**Technology '99 Exposition:** Congressman Thornberry delivered the keynote address opening the 1<sup>st</sup> annual *Pantex Plant Technology Exposition*, held at Amarillo College. The theme of the exposition was technology transfer from Pantex to American industry -- the "peace dividend" to be reaped from the winning of the cold war lies in the technology that was developed to win it. Congressman Thornberry also spoke on the pending legislation regarding the creation of a semi-autonomous agency within DOE, and the importance of hiring, keeping, and challenging the best people within that agency. Other noteworthy speakers/attendees included [acting] DP-1 BG Giaconda, Amarillo Mayor Kel Seliger, *Amarillo Globe-News* Publisher G. von Netzer, [acting] AAO Manager D. Brunell, D&Z Senior Vice President W. Holmes, and M&H General Manager W. Weinreich. Over 130 people attended the [reservations-only] business/academia session; the public was also well represented in the [open] afternoon sessions. [Acting] DP-1 also spent the preceding day receiving briefings and touring on site.<sup>[I.B]</sup>