

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

September 17, 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 17, 1999

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

W62 D&I Program: Extensive discussions regarding the path forward on the W62 D&I Program continued this week. Interactions involved DP personnel (DP-21), DOE-AL personnel (ONDP, SASD, NESD), AAO personnel (AAO Manager, Senior Scientific & Technical Advisor, AAM Weapon Operations, AB Staff), and M&H personnel (Project Team, Mission Program Division). No resolution was reached.^[II.B.2.a]

Lightning Issues: M&H delivered the Lightning JCO to AAO last Thursday. However, the BIO Upgrade module addressing lightning was delivered to AAO Wednesday of this week. Given this turn of events, AAO has decided not to act on the JCO, but to proceed with reviewing and [eventually] approving the BIO module. This is probably the more prudent course, given the relatively self-contradictory nature of some of the material found in the submitted JCO. In the mean time, DOE continues to wrestle internally with the policy/guidance that should be provided to M&H. As an opening argument, a requirement to establish 2 layers of control (not necessarily 2 engineered controls) is being discussed -- but the difficulties associated with establishing 2 credible layers may drive DOE to revert to 1 "robust" layer. Also of some concern to DOE is the fact that SNL has reported that they are refining the lightning model used to predict residual voltages in Pantex bays and cells under lightning strike conditions, and may also adjust the safety factor. This may force additional changes in the stand-off values currently in use on site.^[II.B.2.b]

AL-R8 Sealed Insert (SI): AL-R8 SI pit packaging continued on a 2-shift basis all week. However, throughput fell closer to 4 pits packaged per day this week. It is expected that the cumulative number of pits packaged into AL-R8 SIs will surpass 119 today.^[II.B.2.b]

AT-400A Containers: As a corrective measure, to preclude reaching over-temperature conditions on the 18 existing AT-400A pit packages (or any other pit packages, for that matter), M&H Manufacturing Division issued a standing order (MFG-99-11) requiring facility managers to notify one of four listed Pit Thermal Team points of contact any time a facility loses air conditioning for a period greater than 48 hours. In the mean time, pressure is on to move these AT-400As back to 12-44 Cell 2 because of the need to package some pits in FL containers for shipment to LANL. FL container packaging is currently set up to be performed in Building 12-99 Bay 6, but is precluded because the AT-400As are currently in the way.^[II.B.2.a]

DOE Personnel Changes: AAO reports that the Executive Resources Board has completed their review and approved the selection of Mr. D. Glenn as AAO Manager, and Ms. K. Boardman as DOE-AL WPD Director.^[I.B]