

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 22, 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 October 22, 1999

DNFSB Activity Summary: T. Dwyer was on site all week. H. Waugh was on leave all week. C. Martin was on site Thursday for the Pantex Weapons Response Seminar.

Authorization Basis Issues: On Thursday, at M&H request, LLNL presented a Weapons Response Seminar that included presentations by several of the LLNL high explosives experts who provide weapons response information to M&H. Mr. J. Dow (LLNL) set the tone for the meeting by acknowledging that it is no longer enough to simply assert that a given insult will lead to a particular consequence. Rather, the Design Agencies must provide references and other material to defend and document their assessments. However, the quality of such references may be difficult to ascertain, as they have in some cases included draft documents and personal notes that have not been through a peer review process, and caveats that called into question the validity of the information being provided. DOE, M&H, and LLNL agreed that better communication between all parties will improve the situation. Further improvements may also be realized as the 2 Design Agency commitments from the HAR Workshop [see Site Representatives Weekly Letter of October 8th] are brought to fruition. Key issues to be tackled include defining the appropriate level of formality for peer reviews and expert elicitation, and communicating uncertainties inherent in the Design Agency responses.^[II.A]

W62 D&I Program: M&H essentially concluded the W62 Management Self Assessment (MSA) this week. However, the W62 ABCD has not yet been approved, although Revision 1, in which M&H addresses DOE-AL's 1st round of comments, was delivered to DOE on Monday. Page changes to the W62 HAR were also distributed Monday -- these are intended to partially satisfy the conditions of approval set by DOE-AL. Flowdown of the Authorization Basis, as well as Authorization Basis training, is currently being pursued at risk, due to schedule constraints. The MSA team will have to verify that these items have been satisfactorily completed before the MSA is officially closed. Meanwhile, M&H will work through this weekend addressing the significant number of NEOP changes generated during the last 2 weeks. The contractor RA will slip at least 1 day, but the NESS/DOE RA are expected to begin per the original schedule.^[II.A]

Public Interactions: On Tuesday, at the request of the Pantex Plant Citizens' Advisory Board (PPCAB), the Site Representative made a presentation at the regular monthly PPCAB meeting. Subjects discussed included general familiarization with the Board (for the benefit of several members recently appointed to the PPCAB), Recommendation 98-2, *Safety Management at the Pantex Plant*, and Recommendation 99-1, *Safe Storage of Fissionable Material Called "Pits."* The presentation appeared to be well-received; a question and answer session following the presentation generated a moderate number of inquiries.^[II.A]