

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 12, 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 November 12, 1999

DNFSB Activity Summary: T. Dwyer was on site all week. H. Waugh was on site Monday- Wednesday. D. Burnfield was on site Monday-Wednesday observing W62 activities.

W62 D&I Program: The W62 D&I contractor Readiness Assessment (RA) concluded on Thursday. The RA team cited 25 pre-start findings, 11 post-start findings, and 6 observations. Most notably, although they recommended that the program be allowed to start up upon closure of the pre-start findings, the RA team will levy requirements on the Project Team that: 1) the entire cell NEOP be redemonstrated to the RA team; and 2) PT training on the bay NEOPs be conducted under RA team supervision. The RA team specifically took issue with sub-par training and procedures (NEOPs); an inaccurate [per Site Representative observation, premature] Declaration of Readiness to Proceed; late application of a new M&H MSA concept; and training and qualification documentation irregularities. On Friday, the Project Team, Design Agency Engineering Evaluation (EE) Team, and RA team presented their data to the DOE-AL Standing Management Team (SMT), in a Milestone 3 meeting format. The SMT unanimously concluded that 3 criteria for Milestone 3 [per D&P Manual Chapter 11.1] were not satisfied. Specifically, questions exist regarding selected scenarios in the HAR/ABCD, as raised by the RA, EE, and SNL [criterion §5.4.3c]. Per the RA, the NEOPs were not ready [criterion §5.4.3d]. Since the NEOPs weren't yet ready, operator training could not be completed [criterion §5.4.3f]. The SMT authorized the W62 NESS Revalidation to begin on Monday, but only up to the point at which W62 demonstrations would begin. Meanwhile, M&H and the Design Agencies will work to complete their Declaration of Readiness and [conditional] Engineering Release, respectively. The SMT will reconvene by teleconference next Thursday to reassess the situation.^[II.A]

Lightning Issues: On Tuesday, AAO approved PX-JCO-99-002, Revision 2, *Evaluation of Lightning Hazards and Justification for Continued Operation (JCO) of Nuclear Explosive Operations*, although the approval included some caveats. The JCO will expire April 1st. M&H has 30 days to develop a "schedule for timely resolution" of 8 specific issues identified in the AAO evaluation of the JCO. Additionally, AAO directed M&H to make 6 explicit changes to the JCO -- M&H has already revised the JCO in accordance with this direction.^[II.A]

Fire Protection Issues: On Wednesday, the investigation into the Potential Inadequacy in the Safety Analysis (PISA) declared last week [Occurrence Report ALO-AO-MHSM-PANTEX-1999-0074] resulted in a positive USQD. The occurrence report has been upgraded from off-normal to unusual. As a result, M&H Manufacturing Division issued a standing order Wednesday evening prohibiting the use of HE floor matting in nuclear explosive and explosive facilities. For those weapons programs not currently using the HE floor matting, once the Operations Manager verifies that no matting is in the facility, the program can be authorized to resume work. For facilities in which the HE floor matting is currently in use, work may not be authorized until the Operations Manager has the material removed, and the Facility Manager, Production Manager, and Nuclear Explosives Safety determine that operations may resume without HE floor matting present. Site Representatives will attempt to verify the efficacy of this standing order; but, in the mean time, it is noted that no compensatory measures have yet been ordered for explosive/nuclear explosive facilities not under the jurisdiction of Manufacturing.^[II.A]