

# DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

November 24, 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 24, 1999

**DNFSB Activity Summary:** H. Waugh was on site all week. T. Dwyer was on site Monday and Tuesday.

**W62 D&I Program:** Neither the W62 D&I Nuclear Explosive Safety Study (NESS) Revalidation nor the DOE-AL Readiness Assessment (RA) were scheduled to convene this week, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. M&H took advantage of this fact to work the open items remaining from the contractor RA and the Standing Management Team (SMT) Milestone 3 meeting(s). A final SMT teleconference was held Tuesday afternoon. Assuming successful completion of the Level 2 training on the final revision of the cell NEOP and subsequent receipt of the M&H Declaration of Readiness Letter, the SMT concluded that Milestone 3 was satisfied. The NESS and RA were authorized to commence observation of demonstrations on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. Of note, the Declaration of Readiness will cite 2 open pre-start issues, although they are identified as having clear paths to closure. The 1<sup>st</sup> issue has to do with procurement of HE floor matting that meets plant flammability and skid testing requirements [see below]. The 2<sup>nd</sup> issue is associated with the Potential Inadequacy in the Safety Analysis (PISA) identified last week with regard to the ceramaseal® isolators in Building 12-104 bay 16.<sup>[II.A]</sup>

**Fire Protection Issues:** M&H has determined that at least 2 acceptable HE flooring mat materials are available commercially. Local procurement of mats of 1 of the materials has been made; delivery of the 1<sup>st</sup> batch is expected on site by December 10<sup>th</sup>.<sup>[II.A]</sup>

**W87 Program:** Last Wednesday, DOE-AL approved the W87 HAR (Revision 1) and ABCD (Revision 1), which deal with authorizing armed MSAD operations for the W87 D&I Program. Two conditions of approval were levied in the approval letter:

- 1] Fully incorporate the Administrative Controls associated with instituting a bay limit of 1 unit when armed MSAD operations will be conducted and with use of aluminum covers on W87 assembly stands when using them for ramp transportation.
- 2] Fully incorporate the lightning JCO controls into W87 operations.

The W87 Program Manager is now negotiating the date to begin a Technical Assist (formerly called a Management Self Assessment) to get ready for start-up.<sup>[II.A]</sup>

**Facility Representative Program:** AAO conducted Facility Representative oral examinations (final qualification) for 2 candidates on Tuesday. Both candidates passed, though considerable discussion accompanied that decision in 1 case. The oral examination board conducted itself in a professional manner, and the conclusions reached in both cases, including remedial training requirements specified, captured most of the Site Representatives concerns.<sup>[I.B.3]</sup>