

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

May 8, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director
FROM: T. Dwyer and H. Waugh, Pantex Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending May 8, 1998

DNFSB Activity Summary: Harry Waugh and Timothy Dwyer were on site all week.

Building 12-116: The SNM Component Staging Facility (Building 12-116) startup team has developed a path forward to correct all contractor ORR pre-start findings by May 19th. At that point, M&H will declare readiness, collect the incentive fee, and have nearly two weeks of “quiet time” before the start of the DOE ORR on June 1st. In order to make use of the quiet time, beginning next week M&H will treat 12-116 as an operational facility (e.g., formally declaring mode changes through the plant shift superintendent, enforcing dual lock criteria, etc.).

Pit Issues: The apparent unanimity in the structure of the Integrated Pit Storage Program Plan (IPSP) reported last week has already begun to fray. It has been reported that DOE-HQ has voiced some concern over the DOE-AL decision to place all pits into Sealed Inserts. At Pantex, the M&H AT-400A Pit Repackaging Team continues to work full bore toward projected restart; no DOE direction has been received to cease and desist. LLNL has issued a set of specifications applicable to storage of pits in Sealed Inserts that will significantly complicate the repackaging process from that envisioned by the contractor -- including a pre-start requirement to establish a pit imaging capability, and a pit cleanliness specification nearly identical to that previously issued for the AT-400A. Also of note, proposed locations for the Sealed Insert Repackaging Line include bays in 12-64, 12-84, 12-99, and 12-104, but not Building 12-66 (formerly proposed as a surplus pit storage facility), because that facility is under consideration to be the home for the Radioisotope Thermal Generator mission for which M&H has entered a bid.

W79 Dismantlement Program: The Project Team had delivered the final version of the W79 Activity Based Controls Document (ABCD), but DOE-AL WPD (R. Glass) redirected the team at a meeting on Wednesday. WPD wants to redefine the Hazard Analysis Report (HAR), as currently practiced by DOE. In this model, it will constitute a bounding analysis for which the set of controls captured in the ABCD will be “more TSR-like.” The contractor is then free to institute lower level controls (also captured in the ABCD, in another section) to preclude exceeding the DOE-approved boundary. The W79 Project Team has been directed to redraft the ABCD to meet this new vision by May 18th. FDU is now projected at June 4th.

S/RIDs: The Management Integration and Control (MIC) S/RID has been presented to the Manager, AAO, for signature. This is the umbrella under which all other site S/RIDs will fall. Additionally, DOE-AL has approved a plan that schedules Phase I Verification in August 1998.

Lightning Protection: Discussions on Lightning Protection issues with representatives of the U.K. at JOWOG-30 revealed that the U.K. system consists of a layered defense, including a catenary system, effectively 2 separate Faraday cages, plus internal stand-off requirements.

Attachment
Upcoming Pantex Events:

May 12-13 -- START III Interagency Working Group Workshop

May 14 -- Bldg 12-104A Paint Bay Milestone 2 Meeting**

May 19-20 -- DP Staffing Workshop (@ Las Vegas, NV)

June 1-12 -- W56 SIRR

??June 1-12?? -- Building 12-116 DOE ORR

June 2-3 -- DOE Lightning Workshop (@ DOE-AL)

June 3 -- W87 ASSET Final Management Team Review

June 4 -- W79 FDU**

??Jun?? -- W56 NESS SIID validation [adequacy review]

June 9-19 -- W62 NES Revalidation

June 29-July 31 -- W56 NESS

??Jul?? -- Building 12-116 startup

July 9-13 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study SIID validation [adequacy review]

???? -- B61-7 Limited Readiness Assessment

July 30-August 26 -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study

August 28 -- Bldg 12-104A Paint Bay MSA commences

NOTES: ** highlights events which are new listings or for which schedule has changed