

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

August 28,1998

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

**FROM:** T. Dwyer and H. Waugh, Pantex Site Representatives

**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending August 28, 1998

**DNFSB Activity Summary:** T. Dwyer was on site all week. H. Waugh was on site Thursday-Friday. D. Burnfield, J. DeLoach, and Outside Expert R. Lewis were on site all week observing the ISMS Verification Review.

**ISMS Verification Review:** The site ISMS Verification Review commenced Monday afternoon. It is expected to continue through next week; Board staff will continue to observe.

**W79 Cell Dissolution:** W79 dissolutions continued through unit 8 this week, but start-up issues continue to plague the process. Late last week, the DMSO overflow reservoir clogged, and the PTs bent a pit tube while attempting to remove an assembly after application of DMSO in the Workstation. M&H is considering conducting a Type-6B run in the near future to exercise Workstation 2 (in 12-98 cell 2), conduct some training, and allow some engineering and testing to determine if process improvements that will reduce the current spate of mechanical glitches could feasibly be instituted. Meanwhile, a 2-week Workstation 1 maintenance outage starts Monday.

**Standing Management Team:** This report will be filed via separate correspondence.

**Secretary of Energy (SOE) Visit:** SOE William Richardson was on site for orientation all day Wednesday. Meetings were conducted with local and state elected officials, as well as Congressman Thornberry. Visit highlights included START III issues; transportation safeguards; tours of Zone 4 magazines, W69 operations, and B83 operations; and a brief public meeting in town (~60 people). The pending DOE decision on siting the Pit Dismantlement & Conversion Facility was a prominent subject all day -- SOE promised a decision this year.

**B61-7 SIRR:** The final report from last week's Single Integrated Readiness Review (SIRR) of B61-7 weapon rebuilds has not yet been issued. However, preliminary reports indicate that there will be 5 pre-start findings, 2 post-start findings, and 10 observations. The most significant findings (tentatively post-starts) involve the lightning protection system and stand-off distances.

**W78 Repair SIRR:** The SIRR for cable repair/replacement for 15 W78's was conducted on Wednesday. Five pre-start findings and 4 observations were identified. Most of the findings are not expected to require major rework, although 1 finding involved lack of clarity regarding requirements (Design Agency and contractor) to perform swipes after specific pit tube operations.

**Building 12-116:** Initial load-out of Building 12-116 has been completed. Eighteen 6-packs (with specific combinations of pits) have been placed in the pit vaults and instrumented to allow evaluation of facility thermal characteristics. The load-out was not without incident, as 2 6-packs were inadvertently placed in the wrong position, though the error was quickly corrected.