DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

December 5, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR: G.W. Cunningham, Technical Director

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

SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending December 5, 1997

DNFSB Activity Summary: Timothy Dwyer and Harry Waugh were on site all week, with the exception of Thursday, when Timothy Dwyer attended a conference at DOE-Albuquerque.

Dynamic Balancer: M&H efforts to restart the Dynamic Balancer remain unsuccessful. As previously reported, the overvoltage (overspeed) trip that was the subject of a prestart finding was actuating below its intended setpoint, precluding the Dynamic Balancer from reaching normal operating speed. M&H investigation revealed that the trip point was drifting down up to ten percent, and that this drift was within the manufacturers tolerance rating for the [off-the-shelf] device. Two higher-precision overvoltage trip devices have been obtained as replacement alternatives. Upon installation and calibration, M&H expects to walk through the new Dynamic Balancer W88 NEOP next week, in preparation for balancing W88 JTAs.

With regard to the W87 and W88 POI fixtures, M&H is designing a completely bolted W88 model, in order to avoid recurrence of the current series of base weld deficiencies. The redesigned W88 POI will be the top priority piece of tooling in the M&H out-source inventory.

Pit Storage -- AT-400A: M&H now has a design-agency-approved ultrasonic inspection procedure to ascertain the integrity of the inner container girth weld. Inspections of the 16 containers accepted to date are now in progress. Additionally, M&H believes that they have recovered from the design problems that resulted in a welding defect and subsequent shutdown of the AT-400A line last September. However, attempts to restart the AT-400A line this week have been impeded by recalibration requirements; (time-induced) lapses in PT proficiency; pit movement scheduling conflicts; and a faulty arc initiation event leading to a zero current monitor trip. M&H expects to have the line fully operational early next week.

W56 and W79 Programs: It has become increasingly clear that both the W56 and W79 Program schedules (as currently published) are far from firm. Dates for performance of the second W79 Type 6B dissolution vary from December 22nd to January 5th. Dates for W56 Dismantlement Program FDU are being perturbed, possibly as much as eight weeks, by a DOE-AAO initiative to move the operation to the bays in Building 12-99 that have recently been released from their commitment to the second AT-400A Pit Repackaging Line.

Personnel Issues: The DOE-Wide Vacancy Announcement for the DOE-AAO Senior Scientific Technical Advisor was posted December 4th.

Attachment

Upcoming Pantex Events:

December 8-10 -- W79 Bay SIRR**

December 8 -- Neutron Radiography (Building 12-56) Management Self-Assessment**

December 9-11 -- DNFSB Site Visit

December 15 -- Neutron Radiography (Building 12-56) RA**

December 17 -- Pit Thermal Meeting**

December 22 -- W79 SIID delivery [target date]**

December 23-29 -- W79 Cell SIRR**

January 5-6 -- W79 Type 6B (unit #2) Dissolution [target date]**

January 14 -- Quarterly Production Meeting**

[unknown] -- NES Electrical Tester Master Study completion

January 20 -- W79 NESS starts

January 23-25 -- W56 SIRR**

February 9 -- W56 SIID complete**

January 19 -- W79 NESS starts**

March 16 -- W79 FDU

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