

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

TO: G. W. Cunningham, Technical Director
FROM: T. Dwyer and H. Waugh, Pantex Site Representatives
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Activity Report for Week Ending June 20, 1997

DNFSB Activity Summary: Timothy Dwyer was on site all week. Harry Waugh was on leave on Thursday. Jack Deplitch was on site four days to observe the W79 Single Integrated Internal Review. Charles Keilers and Rich Tontodonato attended the two-day Beryllium Corrosion Conference.

W-79 Single Integrated Internal Review (SIIR): Preliminary indications are that the SIIR Team is performing a credible review. However, as a result, the W-79 SIIR will have to be redone. Observed shortcomings have included engineering/tooling design issues; subpar Interim Hazard Analyses; procedural inadequacies; and incomplete training [including the discovery that none of the PTs performing the SIIR demo had completed more than one-third of the training requirements for qualification].

Beryllium Corrosion Conference: The conferees met to discuss the results of pit inspections, laboratory experiments, and proposed changes in pit storage containers to minimize corrosion. There is some field experience that indicates beryllium clad pits are vulnerable to pitting, leading to the conclusion that the AL-R8 is not suitable for long-term pit storage. M&H is developing an improved version of the AL-R8 for use as an interim solution until the AT-400A is on line. The improvement to the AL-R8 is the addition of a mechanically-sealed (copper gasket compressed between the lid and a large flange) stainless steel inner vessel filled with an inert gas.

B61-3 Recovery: General PAL/CAP operations in 12-98 Cell 4 have resumed following the recent event with the B61-3. Recovery efforts for the particular B61-3 unit in question are centered on obtaining a portable LINAC shot to verify current configuration. SNL personnel have objected to use of the LINAC, so LANL has been tasked to develop the SIER. Currently, the LINAC shot is projected to take place late Monday or Tuesday.

AT-400A Contractor ORR: The AT-400A contractor ORR began June 19th. Initial feedback indicates it is going well. Known shortcomings include incomplete QAIP, incomplete SARP (SNL funding is an issue), no ultrasonic test capability (required for off-site shipping). None of these issues are expected to impact FPU, but M&H is interested in successful type B certification as material housed in certified containers does not count against SNM limits.

B61-7 NESS Revalidation: The B61-7 NESS Revalidation concluded June 19th and a draft report has been issued.

Attachment

Upcoming Pantex Events:

[in progress] -- W79 Type 6B DMSO Single Internal Readiness Review

[in progress] -- M&H AT-400A ORR

June 24 -- Pit Thermal Meeting

June 25 -- B83 Program Review

July 7 -- W87 SEP starts

July 7 [tentative] -- DOE AT-400A ORR starts [if M&H ORR done]

July 9 -- DOE/M&H Quarterly Production Meeting

July 28-August 8 -- W56 WR Dismantlement Demo for HATT

Week of August 11 -- Major Sitewide Emergency Exercise

August 11-15 -- W56 Project Team and SE Validation