

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

**MEMO TO:** Timothy Dwyer, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Tom Spatz, Pantex Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending January 4, 2013

**Safety Culture:** The NNSA Production Office (NPO), B&W Pantex, and B&W Y-12 issued a joint Safety Culture Policy that establishes expectations and commitments to foster and maintain a positive safety culture. The policy focuses on traits of a healthy nuclear safety culture established by the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations. The policy encourages and expects employees to maintain a questioning attitude and raise safety concerns to management. This fulfills a commitment made in response to the Office of Health, Safety, and Security (HSS) Independent Oversight Assessment of Nuclear Safety Culture at the Pantex Plant.

**Tooling Malfunction:** This week, B&W Pantex production technicians paused non-nuclear (Joint Test Assembly) operations in one facility when they noticed a stripped screw which holds together two pieces of a tube bending fixture. The fixture is not a credited safety-related special tool. B&W process engineering and nuclear explosive safety personnel confirmed that the unit was in a safe and stable configuration. B&W tooling engineers replaced the fixture and operations resumed.

**Tooling Revision Concern:** This week, B&W Pantex paused operations on one weapon program due to a concern that revisions in the authorization basis for electrostatic discharge (ESD) requirements of a specific combination of tooling did not flow down to the procedures in use. The production technicians have always performed bonding to the tooling to create a conductive pathway and prevent an ESD insult to the unit. Several months ago, B&W tooling engineers revised the tooling drawings to reflect the requirement for a conductive pathway. The B&W authorization basis personnel subsequently changed the hazard analysis report to reflect the new drawing number which now contains the requirement for a conductive pathway. However, the procedures in use on the production floor allowed the use of either revision of the tool even though use of the old tool conflicts with the current hazard analysis report. B&W Pantex is planning to hold an event critique for this issue next week.