

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

April 11, 2014

MEMO TO: Steven Stokes, Technical Director
FROM: Thomas Spatz, Pantex Site Representative
SUBJECT: Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending April 11, 2014

DNFSB Staff on Site: Z. Beauvais was at the Pantex Plant this week to observe the Support Activities Nuclear Explosive Safety Master Study.

Loss of Two-Person Control in Zone Coverage: Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Pantex, LLC (B&W) reported the loss of the two-person zone coverage in a nuclear explosive operating facility. During the event, three Production Technicians (PTs) were exiting the facility when one of the PTs noticed that the procedure had been left on top of the cabinet. The PT went back to place the procedure in the cabinet and did not make it back to the inner interlock door before it closed. The PT expressed concern at the event critique that leaving the procedure on top of the cabinet would have violated the combustible standoff Technical Safety Requirement (TSR) for an unoccupied facility. The other two PTs had already opened the outer interlock door before realizing their colleague was not with them. They immediately returned to the facility to re-establish two-person control. For a short period of time, there was one PT in the facility resulting in the loss of two-person control. There was no TSR violation for combustible standoff because the facility was occupied while the combustibles were exposed. B&W is still evaluating the event.

High Pressure Fire Loop (HPFL) Hardware Tryout Update: This week, B&W was observing the performance of the two new jockey pumps placed into service in the HPFL system approximately one week ago. (See report for 4/4/2014.) One of the jockey pumps experienced numerous electrical breaker trips, and was taken out of service for evaluation. The second jockey pump is not having any problems maintaining the required pressure in the system. B&W plans to place one of the existing electric pumps back into service when the Fire Department is performing surveillance requirement flow testing. Also this week, B&W completed installation of facility heaters in the two new pump houses to further protect against freezing. The Fire Department identified a ruptured line due to freezing in one of the new pump houses earlier this year. (See report for 2/7/2014.)

Lightning Protection System Update: B&W returned the Happy, Texas, sensor to the algorithm that chooses which sensors participate in the lightning detection. (See report for 4/4/2014.) This week, the system was operating as designed. B&W's subcontractor was on site this week to review the data from the Lightning Location and Protection System Central computer during the timeframe the Happy, Texas, sensor was producing erroneous lightning strikes.

Emergency Response Drill: B&W performed a site-wide tornado warning drill this week. The Site Representative participated in the drill and did not observe the drill from the Emergency Operations Center. All site personnel were directed to go to an appropriate tornado shelter. The results of the drill were not available at the time of this report.