

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 9, 2015

**MEMO TO:** Steven Stokes, Technical Director  
**FROM:** Zachery Beauvais, Pantex Site Representative  
**SUBJECT:** Pantex Plant Report for Week Ending October 9, 2015

**DNFSB Staff Activity:** R. Arnold was onsite to augment the Board's site coverage.

**Recovery of Plant Operations:** On October 4, members of the unions representing Pantex bargaining unit employees ratified a four-year labor agreement with Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC (CNS), thus ending the work stoppage and strike (see 8/28/2015 report). In an effort to safely and methodically resume full programmatic operations, this week, CNS personnel are executing the steps outlined in their recovery plan for resumption of operations. Per the recovery plan, the manager for each functional area within the Pantex Plant—including Weapons Operation, Infrastructure, and Mission Engineering—is required to submit a signed declaration of readiness before receiving approval from the Plant Manager to resume operations. CNS will provide an enhanced management posture through the recovery, where managers are expected to provide significant floor time. Where possible, CNS has implemented existing processes to facilitate verification of personnel training requirements and facility operability. Managers implemented the process for conducting an annual Human Reliability Program review by holding one-on-one discussions with their employees to verify that personnel returning to work remained within the provisions of the program. CNS facility representatives utilized the processes previously defined to release a facility following a maintenance turnaround to verify that all safety systems are operable and that all required postings are in place. Production managers and production section managers implemented the processes for authorizing the restart of work following a stop work event. During the work stoppage, in-service-inspections (ISI) for hoists in several nuclear facilities lapsed as qualified personnel were unavailable to perform the maintenance. The infrastructure organization has prioritized performing the necessary ISIs. At the time of this report, CNS has not yet resumed nuclear explosive operations.

**Special Nuclear Material (SNM) Packaging:** This week, CNS SNM technicians continued packaging radioisotopic thermoelectric generators for offsite shipment in the facility currently under a Justification for Continued Operations (JCO) due to degraded fire doors (see 8/28/2015 and 10/2/2015 reports). The facility was released for operations before the end of the work stoppage. Consequently, the provisions of the recovery plan were applied in a graded manner for Radiation Safety to support this work activity, and the training requirements for the technicians performing the work were verified through the implementation verification review process.

**Fire Alarm Control Panel Maintenance:** On October 8, the Board staff member observed CNS fire system technicians isolate and impair sections of the deluge fire suppression system in order to troubleshoot a degraded Det-Tronics Fire Alarm Control Panel. During the impairment work, CNS supervisors and fire protection engineers were present to monitor the progress and assist as needed. Last month, the Pantex Emergency Services Dispatch Center received two separate trouble signals from this panel requiring CNS to enter the Limiting Condition of Operability for the safety class deluge fire suppression system in two nuclear explosive bays (see 9/11/2015 and 10/2/2015 reports).