

# **Quarterly Report for the Implementation Plan**

**Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
Recommendation 98-2**

*Accelerating Safety Management Improvements  
at the Pantex Plant*

**July 1 through September 30, 2003**

*Assistant Deputy Administrator  
for Military Application and Stockpile Operations  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
U.S. Department of Energy*

## 1.0 Introduction

On September 25, 2000, the Secretary of Energy approved Revision 1 to the 98-2 Implementation Plan (IP) and provided a copy to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Board (DNFSB). Change 1, to Revision 1, was provided on October 28, 2002, and was accepted by the DNFSB on December 19, 2002. The following report for the period July 1 through September 30, 2003, tracks progress towards completing the commitments outlined in the 98-2 IP, Revision 1, as modified and expanded through Change 1 to Revision 1.

## 2.0 General Progress

From July 1 through September 30, 2003, the Department of Energy (DOE) completed Commitment 4.3.3, “*Develop Improved Site-Wide Technical Safety Requirement (TSR) Controls for On-Site Transportation of Nuclear Explosives*,” and received and implemented accelerated critical tooling for the W88 weapon program, a milestone under Commitment 4.4.7. The Nuclear Explosive Safety (NES) IP for the Device Assembly Facility (DAF) Revision 1 Draft (pursuant to Commitment 4.4.4) was received by the Nevada Site Office (NSO) on September 18, 2003, and is under review.

## 3.0 Task Area Status

The status of open and proposed commitments is provided below for each task area of the 98-2 IP, Revision 1.

## 4.0 Safety Issue Resolution

### 4.1 Define Scope of Work

There are no outstanding commitments within this task area.

### 4.2 Analyze Hazards

There are no outstanding commitments within this task area.

### 4.3 Develop and Implement Controls

**Commitment 4.3.4** - The purpose of this commitment is to validate implementation of the improved site-wide TSR controls for on-site transportation of nuclear explosives.

**Deliverable:** The DOE Readiness Assessment (RA) Report.

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is planning to complete and issue the final RA report 90 working days after the BWXT Pantex General Manager declares readiness. This declaration of readiness will be issued upon the completion of the final

Contractor Readiness Assessment (CRA) scheduled for March 2005 and the resolution and/or corrective action plans (post-start findings only) for any identified CRA findings. Reference Official Use Only, “*TSR Integrated Implementation Plan, Revision 1*,” dated August 18, 2003, submitted to the DNFSB on September 30, 2003, for CRA schedules.

#### **4.4 Perform Work**

**Commitment 4.4.4** - The purpose of this commitment is to issue revisions to the Nevada Operations Office (NV) orders to align with changes to the DOE Orders 452.1 and 452.2 and the DOE-STD-3015.

**Deliverable:** Revisions to the supplemental directives 452.1 and 452.2, and Impact Analysis, and DOE-approved IP (as required).

The NSO issued revisions to the NV Orders 452.1B and 452.2B on April 15, 2002, and April 18, 2002, respectively. The draft revised the NES IP for the DAF (DAF-RPT-32) with a resource-loaded schedule and milestones to implement the orders was received from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory on September 18, 2003. The final revised IP was submitted on October 1, 2003. The NSO approval of the IP is expected by October 31, 2003.

**Commitment 4.4.5** - The purpose of this commitment is to authorize startup of the W78 Seamless Safety (SS)-21 process.

**Deliverable:** The W78 SS-21 Startup Authorization.

The Pantex Site Office (PXSO) issued the Safety Evaluation Report on July 18, 2003, with a partial approval. The areas not approved are associated with electrostatic discharge and special tooling (i.e., air wrench used to operate the work stand). The Hazard Analysis Report changed pages were subsequently provided and PXSO is currently conducting the final review. The process validation occurred in September 2003.

**Commitment 4.4.6** - The purpose of this commitment is to authorize startup of the B83 SS-21 process.

**Deliverable:** The B83 SS-21 Startup Authorization.

Scheduled completion for the B83 SS-21 startup authorization is May 30, 2004. Based on recent delays related to weapon response, the B83 Project Team is projecting a 2-month delay. The B83 Project Team is conducting a re-planning effort and

programmatic impact(s) are being evaluated.

**Commitment 4.4.7 - Accelerated Tooling.** Accelerate implementation of critical tooling for two conventional high explosive weapons to the greatest extent possible within the scope of the current SS-21 authorization basis projects.

**Deliverable:** Implementation of bay and cell tooling for the W78 program and bay tooling for the W88 program to the Pantex contractor (BWXT).

The W78 accelerated tooling has been procured and received on-site. The W78 deliverable has been incorporated into Commitment 4.4.5 of this IP (reference Commitment 4.4.5 for further updates.) For the W88, NNSA approved the Nuclear Explosive Safety Study on September 5, 2003; PXSO approved tooling implementation on September 8, 2003; the BWXT authorized operations on September 8, 2003; and operations commenced on September 9, 2003. Since the W78 accelerated tooling deliverable has been incorporated into Commitment 4.4.5, we request that this commitment be closed.

**Commitment 4.5.1** – The DOE will complete a comprehensive assessment of the actions taken in response to Recommendation 98-2.

**Deliverable:** Final Assessment Report.

The final assessment report is anticipated to be completed as required, provided no unforeseen issues arise that delay closure.