

SUBJECT: Office of Independent Oversight's Office of Environment, Safety and Health Evaluations Activity Report for the Site Visit to the Pantex Plant – December 7-9, 2010

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Independent Oversight, within the Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS), conducted a site visit to the DOE Pantex Site Office (PXSO) and the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas, from December 7-9, 2010. The purposes of the visit were to increase HSS personnel's operational awareness of Pantex Plant activities, continue site access training, and meet with PXSO staff.

Babcock and Wilcox Technical Services Pantex, LLC (B&W Pantex) staff provided HSS personnel with detailed briefings on the documented safety analysis structure at the site, related site standards, and the electronic control flowdown matrix. B&W Pantex staff also provided briefings on the unreviewed safety question and justification for continued operations processes. Finally, B&W Pantex staff presented a thorough explanation of the Seamless Safety-21 process along with a comparison of new tooling concepts in one program that resulted from the Seamless Safety-21 effort.

During the visit, HSS personnel met with members of the PXSO staff to learn more about site office activities and explore opportunities to coordinate activities during the coming year. HSS personnel briefly discussed potential HSS support for the site office in planning and preparation of the site's annual exercise in June 2011. HSS personnel met with the PXSO lead system engineer to discuss the safety system oversight program and planned activities for the coming year. HSS personnel also toured an active work area and met with responsible PXSO program management and quality assurance personnel to discuss the ongoing high pressure fire loop project. PXSO and B&W Pantex personnel provided a presentation on performance indicators and metrics that are used at the site.

During the visit, HSS personnel also met with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board site representatives to discuss the Program Plan for Enhancing Independent Oversight of Nuclear Safety, which was adopted in August 2010 and describes HSS's new approach to oversight. Finally, HSS personnel completed the necessary and administrative requirements for access to the classified computing system and continued their site access training.