

**SUBJECT:** Office of Independent Oversight's Office of Environment, Safety and Health Evaluations Activity Report for the Site Visit to the Pantex Plant – January 25-27, 2011

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Independent Oversight, within the Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS), conducted a visit to the DOE Pantex Site Office (PXSO) and the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas, from January 25-27, 2011. The primary purpose of the visit was to participate in preparations for the upcoming biennial review of PXSO by the Office of the Chief of Defense Nuclear Safety (CDNS). HSS personnel also attended several meetings and conducted operational awareness activities while on site.

HSS personnel participated in pre-visit activities for the CDNS biennial review as members of the review team responsible for reviewing the Integrated Safety Management System. The review, scheduled for late February and early March, will examine the performance of PXSO in providing nuclear safety oversight at the Pantex Plant in approximately 16 functional areas. PXSO staff provided the review team with a briefing on the site's management assurance system, results of the site's CDNS self-assessments conducted in preparation for the review, and Pantex Plant safety performance. Team members met with their counterparts to identify and obtain the documentation necessary to conduct the review and to plan appropriate interviews.

During the visit, HSS personnel observed an early planning meeting for the multi-functional team that is conducting a Causal Factors Analysis of a recent lost time injury at the plant. This highly-structured, resource-intensive process is being conducted by a joint PXSO and Babcock and Wilcox Technical Services Pantex, LLC (B&W Pantex) team in lieu of a Type B investigation. B&W Pantex personnel also briefed HSS personnel on the High Reliability Operations process being used to analyze the Technical Safety Requirements program at the plant. After several months of activity, the team is expected to issue its report and recommendations in the near future. Finally, HSS personnel met with members of the PXSO staff responsible for assessments, systems engineering and emergency management to further discuss opportunities for coordination during the coming year.