

## Final Pantex Report-2006

### Introduction

The Drexel University School of Public Health was awarded a grant from the Department of Energy to develop a Phase 1 plan for assessment of Former Workers at the Pantex Facility in Amarillo, TX and to determine the suitability to start a medical surveillance program among former workers for this site.

### Program Accomplishments

To carry out the needed assessment several aspects of the work were carried out. Contact was made with the HR department, medical department and safety department at Pantex. The HR department reviewed with us the history of the facility, issues of at a still operating facility, and educated us as to the nature of workers at the facility.

Pantex workers included a wide range of individuals, including production technicians who directly handled nuclear weapons and their various components, support staff including secretaries, safety personnel, security forces, and stockroom staff, among others. Other contractors of various types were also identified.

The medical department reviewed existing protocols for active workers and how they underwent regular medical surveillance while employed, but were no longer part of any medical evaluation when they returned or left the facility.

The safety department reviewed with us the approximately 13,000 chemicals that had been used over time at the facility, and together we identified those most commonly encountered and those with a high risk of causing disease following exposure. This department reviewed with us their protocols and procedures for monitoring workers and workplaces.

Based upon collection of this data a plan for assessment of former workers was discussed with two partner institutions. The University of Texas Health Science Center staff would be responsible for worker identification, oversight of scheduling and would create a comprehensive computer data base. The West Texas A & M Clinic in Amarillo was identified as a site where, on a regular and on-going basis, the physical examinations and data collection of all types could be accomplished.

### Plan Outcomes

After reviewing the likelihood of any worker being exposed, and to what they would be exposed to, protocols were designed for data collection and physical examination protocols developed, as well as protocols for laboratory testing which included standard blood and urine testing, special testing such as beryllium related disease, and pulmonary function testing and chest X-rays, which were to receive a B-reader evaluation.

With regard to the plans for beginning the examination under Phase 2 funding, a decision was made to focus initially on production technicians who had been identified as having the most significant exposures.

## Future Plans

A document was submitted to the DOE regarding how Phase 2 was to be carried out, with appropriate budget considerations to carry out this work.