CITY OF AMARILLO, OFFICE OF CITY COMMISSIONER, AMARILLO, TX, HONORABLE DIANNE BOSCH
PAGE 1 OF 4

HON. DIANNE BOSCH
CITY COMMISSIONER
CITY OF AMARILLO, TEXAS

COMMENTS ON THE STOCKPILE STEWARDSHIP AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STORAGE AND DISPOSITION OF FISSILE MATERIALS PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND PANTEX SITE-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

THANK YOU FOR THE CHANCE TO ADDRESS THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IN THIS INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP FORMAT. AS AN AMARILLO CITY COMMISSIONER SINCE 1989, I HAVE WITNESSED COUNTLESS D.O.E. HEARINGS ON PANTEX. THE GIVE-AND -TAKE BETWEEN THE AUDIENCE AND THE D.O.E. OFFICIALS IS VERY INFORMATIVE TO EVERYONE IN ATTENDANCE. THE D.O.E. IS TO BE APPLAUDED FOR THE USE OF AN INTERACTIVE FORMAT, AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO USE IT IN FUTURE HEARINGS.

THE D.O.E. IS ALSO TO BE APPLAUDED FOR THE OPEN MANNER WITH WHICH IT HAS, AND CONTINUES TO, ADDRESS LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. WE ARE ALSO THANKFUL THAT GOOD MANAGEMENT AT PANTEX BY THE D.O.E.'S CONTRACTORS, MASON & HANGER AND BATTELLE, HAS PREVENTED PANTEX FROM HAVING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OF THE TYPE AND MAGNITUDE FOUND AT OTHER D.O.E. SITES. AS IS EVIDENT BY THE LARGE TURNOUT TONIGHT, THIS COMMUNITY STRONGLY SUPPORTS PANTEX, AND THIS

TX-039

SUPPORT COMES IN LARGE MEASURE FROM THE D.O.E.'S COMMITMENT TO OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT. THAT CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT IS CRITICAL FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT OF ALL CONTINUED OR NEW MISSIONS AT PANTEX.

REGARDING THE STOCKPILE STEWARD SHIP AND MANAGEMENT PEIS, I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE CHOICE OF PANTEX AS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE ASSEMBLY AND DISASSEMBLY MISSION. THIS COMMUNITY IS EXTREMELY PROUD THAT PANTEX PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN WINNING THE COLD WAR, AND WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN REDUCING THE SIZE OF THE NATION'S NUCLEAR ARSENAL IN THE POST-COLD WAR PERIOD. KEEPING THIS MISSION AT PANTEX IS NOT ONLY THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR AMARILLO, IT ALSO MAKE SENSE FROM A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE BECAUSE IT MAINTAINS A CONTINGENT PRODUCTION CAPABILITY, AND IT SAVES MORE THAT 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS WHEN COMPARED TO THE COST OF TRANSFERRING THE WORK TO THE NEVADA TEST SITE.

AS LONG AS WE ARE ON THE SUBJECT OF COST SAVINGS AND RETENTION OF PRODUCTION CAPABILITY, THE D.O.E. MUST NOT LET THE HIGH EXPLOSIVE (H.E.) FABRICATION MISSION BE MOVED FROM PANTEX. PANTEX EMPLOYEES HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PERFORMED THIS MISSION FOR MORE THAN FORTY YEARS, AND THERE IS

TX-039

CITY OF AMARILLO, OFFICE OF CITY COMMISSIONER, AMARILLO, TX, HONORABLE DIANNE BOSCH
PAGE 3 OF 4

ABSOLUTELY NO REASON FOR THIS WORK TO BE MOVED. WHEN THE WEAPONS COMPLEX WAS ORGANIZED, IT MADE LOGICAL SENSE TO LOCATE HIGH EXPLOSIVE WORK WITH ASSEMBLY AND DISASSEMBLY. IT STILL MAKES SENSE. FURTHERMORE, THE D.O.E.'S OWN ANALYSIS INDICATES THAT THE COST OF TRANSFERRING H.E. WORK TO NEW MEXICO LABS WOULD BE FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE. THAT THE D.O.E. MIGHT SEEK TO JUSTIFY SPENDING FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS ONLY TO END UP WITH LESS PRODUCTION CAPABILITY IN A LOCATION THAT HAS NEVER PERFORMED THIS MISSION.

IN TERMS OF STORAGE AND DISPOSITION ACTIVITIES, I WOULD FIRST LIKE TO NOTE MY PREVIOUS COMMENTS ABOUT THE NEED TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE PREVIOUS COMMENTS ABOUT THE NEED TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD THAT PANTEX HAS REGARDING STORAGE OF PLUTONIUM OVER MANY YEARS. I HOPE THAT THE D.O.E. WILL MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE AND CONTINUE THE SAFE STORAGE OF SURPLUS PLUTONIUM AT PANTEX. I ALSO HOPE THAT THE D.O.E. WILL KEEP IN MIND THAT PLUTONIUM FROM DISMANTLED WEAPONS REPRESENTS A TREMENDOUS INVESTMENT AND MAY PROVE TO BE A VALUABLE ASSET IN CIVILIAN 1/08.03.01

TX-039

08 03 01 Comment Number 1

The Department of Energy acknowledges the commentor's support of Pantex. Decisions related to future missions at Pantex will be based upon environmental analyses, technical and economic studies, national policy considerations, and public input.

USE. I URGE THE D.O.E. TO CHOOSE PANTEX AS THE SITE FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND DISPOSITION ACTIVITIES. 1/08.03.01 cont.

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE D.O.E.'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF PANTEX. PANTEX HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR REGIONAL ECONOMY FOR MANY YEARS, AND WE SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND OPERATIONS AT THE PLANT. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK ALL THE CONCERNED CITIZENS OF OUR COMMUNITY WHO HAVE MAKE THE EFFORT TO ATTEND THIS MEETING TONIGHT.

TX-039