## GREG LAIR, INC., CANYON, TX, GREG LAIR PAGE 1 OF 2

April 22, 1996

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Fissile Materials
P.O. Box 23786
Washington, DC 20026

RE: Pantex

To Whom It May Concern:

Greg Lair, Inc., of Canyon, Texas, supports the selection of Pantex for weapons assembly and disassembly activities. We strongly endorse the continuation of high explosives (HE) functions at Pantex, and oppose any plan to move these functions to the national laboratories. Since Pantex is the most cost-effective Department of Energy (DOE) facility and enjoys the strongest local support, we endorse the addition of other environmentally sound stewardship and management functions at Pantex. Furthermore, we believe that Pantex should be chosen as the location for fissile materials storage and disposition functions. 1/08.03.01

Pantex must retain HE capabilities to process the inventories already on-site from dismantling. Millions of tax payers dollars have been spent recently at the site to ensure that all the functions are safe and efficient. It is the only cost-effective choice available. Moreover, it would be highly advantageous to have all HE functions situated on the site to upgrape existing weapons systems; In the event of weapons production, on-site HE functions will be a necessity. High Explosives functions must remain at Pantex.

Since Pantex is the most cost-effectuve DOE facility and enjoys the strongest locall support, it is appropriate to consider Pantex as an alternative site for all future defense-related facilities to complement activities at the national laboratories. The location of additional defense-related activities at Pantex would ensure that core technical capabilities are preserved at a location that can secure them at the most efficient cost to the tax payer. The Department of Energy must view accurate budgetary comparisons between Pantex and other sites. Life-Cycle analysis would assist in these comparisons to ensure the inclusion of all capital, transportsion, training, remediation, and all costs. 2/07.02.00

GREG LAIR, INC.
CANYON E-WAY & BUFFALO STADIUM RD. • P.O. BOX 510 • CANYON, TEXAS 79015 • 806-655-2583

M-050

### 08 03 01 Comment Number 1

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

### 07 02 00 Comment Number 2

Cost data, along with technical and schedule data, were provided for public comment in a Technical Summary Report in late July 1996.

April 22, 1996

Greg Lair, Inc.
P.O. BOx 510
Canyon, TX 79015

Page -2-

We believe that Pantex should be chosen as the location for plutonium storage. It seems that Pantex is the only facility that has handled assembly and disassembly operations in a safe and efficient manner. If cost savings are considered, Pantex is the only choice for plutonium storage. The facility is already storing plutonium on-site, and has strived significantly to ensure not only safety but environmentally sound practices as well. Not only has the facility made recent upgrades to storage facilities, storage container usage and reconfigurement, and security enhancement, Pantex could also upgrade facilities for any and all storage options being considered by the DOE using processes already in place with minimal cost and difficulty. It makes little sense to re-create storage facilities at another site and then unnecessarily transport large amounts of plutonium across the country from Pantex. The cost and possible consequences of this decision would be enormous. Pantex also should be designated the preferred site for any disposition options and related function. It makes sense to site deposition where storage already exists. Furthermore, it is not feasible, from any perspective, to site strategic storage at one site and surplus at another. Pantex has the necessary safety, security, and surveillance capabilities to accommodate an expanded role with minimal costs, and it is the production site closest to Los Alamos, the planned fabrication site.

1/08.03.01 cont.

Based upon the above reasons and for the continued benefit of the entire community, Greg Lair, Inc. urges the Department of Energy to designate Pantex as the preferred alternative site for all existing and new stockpile management and stewardship functions as well as consolidation of all plutonium storage and disposition and any related functions.

Sincerely yours,

Greg Lair

GL/sm

M-050