

**SUBJECT:** Office of Independent Oversight's Office of Environment, Safety and Health Evaluations Activity Report for the Orientation Visit to the Pantex Plant – October 26-28, 2010

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Independent Oversight, within the Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS), conducted an orientation visit to the DOE Pantex Site Office (PXSO) and the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas, from October 26-28, 2010. The purpose of the visit was to increase HSS personnel's operational awareness of Pantex Plant activities and to determine how HSS can carry out its independent oversight and mission support responsibilities in a way that encourages a partnership with PXSO.

PXSO and Pantex Plant staff provided HSS personnel with detailed tours of plant facilities, including warehouses, vaults, shipping and receiving docks, bays, cells, and the radioactive waste processing facility. The tours, which were conducted by knowledgeable senior plant personnel, included visits to both nuclear and explosive facilities and gave HSS personnel an opportunity to observe some plant operations. HSS staff also visited the plant's operations center, emergency services dispatch center, and emergency operations center.

During the visit, HSS personnel briefed the Site Office Manager and members of the PXSO senior staff on the Program Plan for Enhancing Independent Oversight of Nuclear Safety, which was adopted in August 2010 and describes HSS's new approach to oversight. HSS personnel were then briefed on the PXSO assessment program and Master Assessment Schedule and were given a broad overview of the Pantex Plant safety basis documentation. Finally, Babcock and Wilcox Technical Services Pantex, LLC, personnel described in detail their efforts to become a Highly Reliable Organization, including an overview of previous activities and plans for the upcoming year.