



# PANTEX PLANT

Amarillo, Potter and Randall Counties, Texas

**Office:** Albuquerque Operations Office

**Size:** 16,000 acres (25 square miles)

**NPL Status:** Placed on the NPL on May 31, 1994.

**Mission:** The facility was originally constructed in 1942 for the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps for loading conventional ammunition shells and bombs. In 1951, the Atomic Energy Commission (DOE's predecessor) took over the main plant and surrounding 10,000 acres for use as a nuclear weapons production facility. The Pantex Plant's current functions include the fabrication of chemical high explosives; high-explosives development work in support of the design laboratories; and nuclear weapons assembly, disassembly, testing, quality assurance, repair, retirement, and disposal.

### **Overview of Environmental**

**Conditions:** Potential for soil and groundwater contamination from formulation and development of high explosives; machining and plating operations; weapon component tests (non-nuclear); facility and vehicle operations and maintenance activities; and historical waste management and disposal practices. High-explosive and solvent contamination may also have resulted from operations during World War II.

**CERCLA/RCRA Remediation Funding in FY 98:** \$11,161,000

### **Progress in Reaching Interagency Agreement**

Remediation of environmental conditions is currently being addressed under authority of an RCRA Part B Permit, issued June 6, 1991, by the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC), formerly the Texas Water Commission. The EPA may be willing to use the RCRA permit instead of the IAG to regulate corrective actions at the site. Consequently, NPL deletion activities are in progress, and if successful, an IAG will no longer be necessary.

### **Specific Cost Estimates and Budgetary Proposals Involved in Each Interagency Agreement**

Funds budgeted for environmental restoration at the Pantex Plant total \$11.3 million of appropriated funding for FY 99 and \$15.0 million for FY 00 according to the request in the President's Budget.

### **Public Comments Regarding Interagency Agreements**

No formal public comment occurred in FY 98 concerning the IAG. Pantex Plant continued its aggressive community relations program during FY 98 by holding monthly public information meetings and participating in the monthly Pantex Plant Citizens Advisory Board. Supporting efforts include issuance of press releases for major milestones, dissemination of fact sheets and brochures, and maintenance of public reading rooms.

### **Progress in Conducting Remedial Investigations/ Feasibility Studies**

In FY 98, two new assessments were completed.

### **Progress in Conducting Remedial Actions**

The Pantex environmental restoration program closed 24 release sites in FY 98:

- Closure by remediation was achieved at nine release sites; and
- Closure by No Further Action was achieved at 15 release sites.

In FY 98, accelerated cleanups have been completed at Firing Site 5, High Explosive/Radioactive Waste Sites, and former Cooling Tower. Also, the Groundwater Treatability Study was completed. Offsite perched aquifer investigation and monitoring well installation per TNRCC (state) requirements were completed and subsequent findings required additional production and monitoring wells.

In FY 99, remediation activities will continue at three remaining major release sites. Additional offsite groundwater characterization and remediation activities will also continue.