

Pantex INFO

Pantex Plant History

The Pantex Plant, located near Amarillo, Texas, in Carson County, has a long history of service to the United States.

World War II

In 1942, the U.S. Army constructed the original Pantex Ordnance Plant on 16,000 acres. The mission of the Plant was loading and packing conventional artillery shells and bombs to support the World War II effort. Certain Teed Products Corporation was the operator of the facility.

When the war ended in 1945, Pantex workers were sent home and Pantex's operations ceased. The buildings remained vacant until Texas Technological College in Lubbock (now Texas Tech University) leased 8,000 acres for agricultural research in 1947. The War Assets Administration deeded most of the remaining property to Texas Tech in 1949.

Nuclear Weapons Missions

In 1951, the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), asked the Army to reclaim 10,000 acres through a recapture clause in the deed agreement. Mason & Hanger-Silas Mason Co., Inc., was awarded a \$25 million contract to refurbish and expand the Plant for nuclear weapons, high explosive and non-nuclear component assembly operations.

With construction completed, the Proctor and Gamble Defense Corporation served as managing and operating contractor from 1951 through 1956. Mason & Hanger was awarded the operating contract in 1956. By 1960, Pantex Plant had taken on a new high explosives development mission in support of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Atomic Energy Commission

In 1963, executive responsibility for the Plant was transferred from the Army to the AEC, which renamed the site Pantex Plant. From 1965 to 1975, the AEC consolidated at Pantex various weapons modification, surveillance, assembly and high explosives operations from facilities closed in Tennessee, Texas and Iowa.

The Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) took control of Pantex in 1975 when the AEC was

dissolved. Two years later, ERDA was dissolved, and control of Pantex was transferred to the Department of Energy (DOE), where it remains today.

Since 1989, the remaining 6,000 acres of the original site have been leased from Texas Tech to serve as a safety and security buffer.

Day & Zimmermann, Inc., acquired Mason & Hanger in 1999.

National Nuclear Security Administration

In 2000, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) was created as a semiautonomous agency within the DOE to oversee the Nuclear Security Enterprise, including the Pantex Plant.

Also in 2000, the DOE solicited bids for the Pantex management and operating contract. After considering offers from four bidders, the DOE awarded the contract to BWXT Pantex, LLC, a company formed by BWX Technologies, Inc. and Honeywell International, Inc. specifically to manage and operate Pantex. BWXT Pantex assumed management and operations of the Pantex Plant on February 1, 2001.

In 2005, BWXT Pantex earned a five year contract extension that continues until September 30, 2010.

Also in 2005, Bechtel National, Inc. joined as a member of BWXT Pantex. Bechtel had previously, since 2001, been an integrated subcontractor to BWXT Pantex.

In 2007, BWX Technologies consolidated with the Babcock & Wilcox Company (B&W) and changed the name of BWXT Pantex to Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Pantex, LLC (B&W Pantex), to reflect the new association.

In 2008, USDOE/NNSA purchased 1,526 acres of land east of FM 2373 to provide access for groundwater monitoring and positive control over future land and groundwater use. The Pantex Plant site now consists of a total of 17,559 acres, comprised of USDOE/NNSA owned land and 5,856 acres of safety and security buffer owned by the Texas Tech University.

April 2010

U.S. Department of Energy/ National Nuclear Security Administration Pantex Plant
Managed and Operated by Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Pantex, LLC (B&W Pantex)
P.O. Box 30020 Amarillo, TX 79120-0020 (806) 477-3800 www.pantex.com