

# Los Alamos National Laboratory

Environment, Safety And Health Division (ESH-19)

P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop K490  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545  
(505) 665-9527 / FAX: (505) 667-5224

Date: June 8, 2000  
Refer to: ESH-19-00:049

Mr. John Kieling  
RCRA Permits Program  
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2004 Galisteo St., Building A  
P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



Dear Mr. Kieling:

**Subject: Chemical Destruction at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)**

The purpose of this letter is to provide a written report notifying you of the destruction of 10 containers of potentially unstable chemicals. Approval to perform these activities was provided to Alice Barr of the University of California's (UC) Hazardous and Solid Waste Group by you via telephone during the weeks of May 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2000.

During this two-week period, Material Science and Technology (MST) Division's Environment, Safety, Health and Facilities personnel conducted an evaluation of chemical storage areas for restart of operations after the Cerro Grande fire. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, three containers of picric acid were identified at Technical Area (TA) 35 that were potentially shock sensitive. MST Division personnel then conducted a full physical inspection of all chemicals with similar potential. The following is a list of all chemicals found that appeared to represent a possible shock-sensitive hazard. Also included are the approximate amounts and locations of each substance:

Chemical	Amount	Location
picric acid	100 grams	TA-3-66-H105B
thallium perchlorate	200 milliliters	TA-3-66-J2
picric acid	100 grams	TA-35-213-B22
ammonium perchlorate	250 grams	TA-35-213-B119
ammonium perchlorate	100 grams	TA-35-213-B119
picric acid	500 grams	TA-35-213-G104
picric acid	500 grams	TA-35-213-G104
picric acid	125 grams	TA-35-213-G104
nitrocellulose	250 grams	TA-35-213-G105
nitromethane	100 milliliters	TA-35-455-104B



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It was determined by UC's Emergency Management and Response Group that these chemicals should be placed in LANL's burn box for destruction or be detonated. Special Work Permits were prepared that included evaluations by UC's Air Quality Group to ensure that no significant emissions would result with respect to air quality requirements. Safe stand-off distances were determined and observed by emergency personnel.

The 3 containers of picric acid first identified were destroyed at TA-49 on May 24<sup>th</sup> and the remaining chemicals were destroyed at TA-15 on June 1. Any residue remaining from these events was sampled, submitted for analysis, and will be characterized and managed appropriately.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (505) 667-0820.

Sincerely,



Alice Barr  
Hazardous and Solid Waste

AB/vh

Cy: W. Purtymun, LANL, EM&R, MS D426  
D. Garcia, LANL, MST-OPS, MS G752  
J. Vozella, LAAO, MS A316  
ESH-19 (00049.AB), LANL, MS K490