

ERTD 58400

23-0039

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Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY
memorandum

To/MS: File
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Phone/FAX: 5525/5-8843
Symbol: CLS-ER SW03-001
Date: Jan. 15, 1993

Subject: Interview with Julie Wilson 1/15/93, concerning SWMU 43-003 Photo Processor and 43-002 Incinerator.

Julie Wilson has worked at the Health Research Lab for 27 years. Five years ago, she was put in charge of the automated x-ray film processors in LS division.

There are two Konica X-ray processors, the QX-70 and QX-60. Julie explained that the solutions used to process the film are "fix", developer, and water. Each solution is held in a trough in the processor. As developing occurs, the solutions are continuously replenished from storage reservoirs. Excess solutions exit through overflow drains to a "catch" basin.

In 1990, the fix and developer began being collected. Prior to this, it was drained into the regular sewer system. The solutions are now drained into 5-gallon containers and are stored in the same room as the processor (Rm. #235 and #245). The containers are then picked up weekly by Southwest Radiographics for recycling. Water from the developing is drained into the regular sewer system.

The processors are heavily used by LS-1 and 2, approximately 80 people have access to the machines. There have never been any problems involving the processor or the chemicals associated with them. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) can be referenced for safety regulations and operating procedure.

The Incinerator was used at HRL in the early 70's. It was used to destroy animal carcasses contaminated with tracer quantities of non-transuranic isotopes. A large spectrum of isotopes were used (Cesium, Cobalt, Niobium, Strontium, Cadmium, Mercury, Zinc, Iron, Lead) in picocurie quantities (10^{-12}) over a period of about 15 years between 1960-1975. The room where the incinerator was located was routinely screened for radiation and met all screening action levels (SAL's).

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