

ER Record I.D.# 0000517

DATE RECEIVED: 5-4-92 PROCESSOR: ASM

Part I: Complete all fields; indicate NA (Not Applicable) if appropriate. Please write legibly.

DOCUMENT TO: H. Erschel W. Godbee DOCUMENT DATE: 1/11/71
ORIGINATOR NAME: C. W. Christenson ORGANIZATION: H-7
SYMBOL: H7-CWC-714 PAGE COUNT: 3
SUBJECT/TITLE: Volume of Transuranium Wastes Buried at
Los Alamos

RECORD TYPE (Circle relevant type):

- | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Analytical Data | Figure | Microform | Purchase Request | Transcription |
| Chain-of-Custody | Interview | Notebook | Receipt Acknowledgment | Video |
| Computer Output | Letter | Personal Notes | Report | Work Plan |
| Contract | Logbook | Photo | Review | Other |
| Drawing | Map | Plan | Study | |
| FAX | Memo | Procedure | Telephone Record | |

RECORD CATEGORY: P

RECORD PACKAGE #

Part II: Complete all fields; indicate NA (Not Applicable) if appropriate. Please write legibly. Use ER Records Index Form Attachment Sheet if needed.

TECH AREA(S)	SWMU NO(S)	ADS NO(S)	STRUCTURE NO(S)
<p>LIST RELEVANT TECH AREA(S) HERE.</p> <p>21 54</p>	<p>LIST RELEVANT SWMU(S) HERE.</p> <p>NA 21-014</p>	<p>LIST RELEVANT ADS NO(S) HERE.</p> <p>1106 1148</p>	<p>LIST RELEVANT STRUCTURE NO(S) HERE.</p> <p>21-MDA-A 21-MDA-B 21-MDA-C 54-MDA-B</p>

Part III: Complete all fields; indicate NA (Not Applicable) if appropriate. Please write legibly. Use ER Records Index Form Attachment Sheet if needed.

WBS NO(S)	DOCUMENT TO	ORIGINATOR NAMES
<p>LIST RELEVANT WBS NO(S) HERE.</p> <p>1.5.13 1.5.24</p>	<p>LIST MULTIPLE RECIPIENTS HERE.</p> <p>NA</p>	<p>LIST MULTIPLE ORIGINATORS HERE.</p> <p>NA</p>

CORRECTION Y/N: NO PREVIOUS ER ID NO: N/A
CORRECTION DESCRIPTION: N/A
SUPERSEDE: NO DELETION: NO ADDITION: NO REVISION: NO



Part IV: KEYWORDS; Circle relevant KEYWORDS from the list below.

MISCELLANEOUS (Please write legibly):

HA Mesita del Buey

Aboveground Tank	Contract	Glass Breaker	Open	Shaft
Accelerator	Controlled Distribution	Guidance	Open Burning	Silver
Access	Correspondence	Gun	Organic	Site
Accident	Cost	Hazardous	OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration)	Soil
Accumulation	.....	Health	OU (Operable Unit)	Solid
Acid	Date	High Explosive	Outfall	Solvent
Administrative	Debris	History	Outline	SOP (Standard Operating Procedures)
ADB (Activity Data Sheet)	Decision Analysis	Home Owner	.....	SOW (Statement of Work)
AEG (Atomic Energy Commission)	Decontamination	HSWA (Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments)	PA/RA (Preliminary Assessment/RCRA Facility Assessment)	Split
Air	Deficiency	Hydrology	Permit	Stack
Alpha	Deliverables	Implementation	Personnel Description	Statistics
American	Demolition	Impoundment	Personnel Qualification	Streamline
Analysis	Detonation	Inactive	Photo	Storage
Analytical	Development	Inclinator	Phot Study	Strontium
AOC (Area of Concern)	Disposal	Injection Well	.....	Structure
Approval	Documentation	Inorganic	Plan	Subcontractor
Aquifer	DOE (Department of Energy)	Interim	Plan	Subsurface
ARAR (Applicable, Relevant, or Appropriate Requirements)	DQO (Data Quality Objectives)	Interim Action	.....	Summary
Archeology	Draft	Investigation	Propellant	Bump
Archive	Drainage	IRM (Interim Remedial Measure)	Proposal	Support
Area	Drainline	Isotope	Programmatic	Surface
Arsenic	Drawings	IWP (Installation Work Plan)	Project Leader	Surveillance
Asbestos	Drilling	.....	Proposal	Survey
Assessment	Drop Tower	Lab Job	PRS (Potential Release Site)	Swipe
Audit	Drum	Leggon	Public	SWMU (Solid Waste Management Unit)
.....	Dry Well	Land	Pump	System
Bacteria	.....	Landfill	.....	.....
Barium	Ecology	Laundry	Quality	Tank
Baseline	EIS (Environmental Impact Statement)	Leach Field	QA (Quality Assurance)	TCLP (Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure)
Beamed Area	Emission	Lead	QP (Quality Procedure)	.....
Beryllium	Engineering	Leak	.....	Technical
Beta	Environmental Research	Legal	Radioactive	Technical Team
Biology	Environmental Restoration	Liquid	Radiochemistry	Technology
Boiler	EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)	Management	.....	Test Area
Boneyard	Equipment	Manhole	RA (Resource, Conservation and Recovery Act)	Testing
Buried	ENDA (Energy Research and Development Administration)	Map	Records	TLD (Thermoluminescent Dosimeter)
Burn	Erosion	Meeting	Recovery	Townsite
Burn Site	ES&H (Environment, Safety, and Health)	Mercury	Recycle	Toxic Metal
.....	Estimate	Metal	Reduction	Training
Cadmium	Evaluation	Minimization	Reference	Transfer
Calsson	Evaporator	Minutes	Regulation	Transport
Calibration	Excavation	MIS (Management Information System)	Release	Treatment
Canyon	Exclusion	Mixed Waste	Removal	Trench
Caustic	Experiment	Model	Report	Trip Report
CEARP (Comprehensive Environmental Assessment and Response Program)	Explosive	Modification	Request	Tritium
Cement	Extension	Money (Allocation, Budget, Funding, etc.)	Requirements	TRU (Transuranic)
CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act)	Extraction	Monitoring	Reskin Bed	TSCA (Toxic Substances Control Act)
Cesium	Facility	Monthly Report	Review	Tuff
Chamber	Farm	Mortar Impact Area	Revision	.....
Change Control	Fence	NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act)	RFI/RI (RCRA Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation)	Underground
Change Order	Field	NMED (New Mexico Environmental Division)	Risk	Uranium
Chemical	Filter	NMEID (New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division)	RPF (Records Processing Facility)	USGS (United States Geological Survey)
Chromium	FIMAD (Facility for Information Management, Analysis, and Display)	Notebook	.....	UST (Underground Storage Tanks)
Cleanup	Finding	Notification	Safety	.....
Closure	Fire	NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System)	Sample	Validation
CMI/RA (Corrective Measures Implementation/Remedial Action)	Firing Site	NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission)	Sampling Plan	VE (Value Engineering)
CMB/FS (Corrective Measures Study/Feesibility Study)	Fiscal	Oil-gas	Satellite	Ventilation
Community Relations	Five Year Plan	Oil	Schedule	Volatile
Compressed Gas	Flowchart	.....	Scrap Detonation Site	Volume
Computer Modeling	Framework	.....	Screening	.....
Concrete	Fuel	.....	Scrubber	.....
Configuration	Gamma	.....	Seep	.....
Construction	Gas	.....	Seminar	.....
Container	Generic	.....	Semivolatle	.....
Containment	Geochemistry	.....	Septic	.....
Contaminant	Geology	.....	Sewer	.....
.....	Geophysics	.....	.....	.....

ER-750

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ALAMOS SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY
(CONTRACT W-7403-ENG-36)
P. O. Box 1663
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

4015171

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

H7-CWC-714

January 11, 1971

Herschel W. Godbee
Process Design Section
Chemical Technology Division
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
P. O. Box X
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Dear Herschel:

Attached is a copy of a memorandum from Dean Meyer in response to your request of December 16, 1970.

In discussing this with Dean, he pointed out that any significant quantity (milligram) of plutonium has, since 1956, been placed separately in special pits or wells. We believe, although it can't be proven, that the average concentration of ^{239}Pu in the main pits is well below 10 nCi/gram. The other material is in wells or shafts encased in concrete and asphalt.

Should you need more information, do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely yours,
Original Signed by
C. W. CHRISTENSON

C. W. Christenson
Group Leader, H-7
Industrial Wastes Group

CWC:gm

Enclosure: 1 copy memorandum from D. D. Meyer, H-1, to
C. W. Christenson, H-7, January 4, 1971

XC: D. Meyer, H-1 ~~-----~~

Received by ER-RPF
MAY 04 1992
AS77

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C. W. Christenson, Group Leader, H-7

Jan. 4, 1971

Dean D. Meyer, Group Leader, H-1

VOLUME OF TRANSURANIUM WASTES BURIED AT LOS ALAMOS

H-1

In answer to Herschel Godbee's request for volume of trans-uranium wastes buried at Los Alamos, as you know, we cannot answer this question since all radioactive wastes have been buried in the same pits.

I have the following information on burial pits which might be used. There are four waste pit areas at Los Alamos.

Area A - These were the first pits used, to my knowledge, and the main radioactive material buried was Polonium. There may have been a trace of ^{239}Pu . These pits were closed at the time of my arrival, which was July, 1946. Estimated volume is 4,000 cubic yards. In 1969, a pit was dug adjacent to these old pits and it has been used to dispose of waste material removed from DP West during the rehabilitation work. I do not believe the amount of plutonium in this pit would justify digging up. The volume is 8,500 cubic yards; the pit is still open.

Area D - This is a series of pits on DP Road. The total volume of the pits, after deducting the three foot of cover material, is 28,000 cubic yards. These pits actually contain very little Plutonium. At the time they were in use, Pu was scarce and only that which was present as contamination was buried. I would estimate that the entire pit area contains no more than 100 grams of ^{239}Pu . Also, a portion of this area has been paved and is being used as a parking lot.

Area C - This area is adjacent to TA-50. It contains six pits with a volume, after allowing for dirt cover, of 118,000 cubic yards.

Area G - This is our present disposal site, located at Mesita del Buey (TA-54). This area contains five full pits, plus one which is approximately 3/4 full. The total volume, after allowing for cover, is 215,000 cubic yards as of January 1, 1971.

Summary -

C. W. Christenson

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Jan. 4, 1971

0015173

Area A	12,500 cubic yards
Area B	28,000 cubic yards
Area C	118,000 cubic yards
<u>Area G</u>	<u>215,000 cubic yards</u>
Total	373,500 cubic yards

Since 1956, we have kept a record of the volume of the containers placed in the burial pits. The total volume of material placed in the pits since then is \approx 97,500 cubic yards. The volume of the pits used during this period, allowing for a 3-foot cover, is 24,600 cubic - 246,000 yards. The difference is the dirt that has been used to cover the layers of material.

Original Signed by
Dean D. Meyer

Dean D. Meyer

DDM/eh

cc: File 

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