

MEMORANDUM

ERM/GOLDER LOS ALAMOS PROJECT TEAM

To: Lynda Sobojinski
From: Bart Vanden Plas
Date: October 5, 1994
Re: Chronology of Drum Sampling at SM-30

The drums at SM-30 contain rinsate generated during the decontamination of equipment used during the cleanup of SWMU 3-010(a) and also include rainwater pumped from the site May 25 and 26, 1994. The decontamination liquids were generated during the cleanup in April and May 1994. The last batch of liquids were generated and placed in the drums May 6, 1994. We had expected to generate more decon fluids as the VCA progressed and collect samples after all the liquids had been generated, however, the detection of volatile organics halted the VCA progress.

On May 16, 1994, preliminary analytical data indicated volatile organic compounds as contaminants of concern at SWMU 3-010(a) based on the samples collected May 6, 1994, and analyzed May 10, 1994. The data values were erroneous in some cases; therefore, a second set of samples was analyzed. This analysis confirmed the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and a final report was generated the week of May 23. On the basis of this information, the rinsate drums at SM-30 were to be analyzed for volatile contaminants. This sampling was delayed by rain May 25 and 26, 1994.

On June 6, 1994, two change order control forms were submitted to LANL's industrial hygiene group, ESH-5, to incorporate sampling the rinsate drums at SM-30 into the existing site-specific health and safety plan. In addition, the change order control requested approval of a new Site Safety Officer (SSO) for the task. ESH-5 approved the change order controls with the requirements that ESH-1 personnel be present during the sampling to monitor exposure levels of tritium and oversee the health and safety monitoring. An additional requirement was the use of both a photo-ionization detector and a flame ionization detector for monitoring organic vapors.

Sampling was scheduled for June 13, 1994. Upon arrival at the site, the monitoring equipment malfunctioned and sampling was rescheduled for June 17, 1994.



On June 17, 1994, samples were collected for TPH, metals, semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), (VOCs), and tritium. The samples were delivered to LANL's Sample Coordination Facility for shipping to the appropriate analytical laboratory.

During the week of July 25, 1994, we were informed that the laboratory that received the VOC samples had missed the holding time due to instrument malfunction. There was no explanation on the delay in reporting the missed holding times for these samples.

On July 28, 1994, a change order control was prepared once again to resample the drums at SM-30. This was not acceptable to ESH-5 because it was difficult to arrange oversight by ESH-5 personnel. In addition, there was a delay while ESH-5 and ESH-1 reviewed the need to provide tritium monitoring during the sampling. ERM/Golder agreed to provide the SSO during the week of August 1, 1994.

It was not until the week of August 15, 1994, that ESH-1 and ESH-5 agreed that tritium monitoring would not be needed during the second sampling since the levels detected during the first sampling event were low. This decision was reached based on data that was requested from ERM/Golder. Therefore, re-sampling was scheduled for August 19, 1994. The VOC samples were re-collected and again delivered to the Sample Coordination Facility.

During the week of August 22, 1994, CST-9 informed us that the samples could not be shipped because there was no radiological screening data from the radiological screening van on the samples; therefore, it was decided to re-collect the samples with an aliquot for radiological screening.

August 30, 1994, the samples were re-collected. The VOC samples were delivered to the Sample Coordination Facility and the radiological screening samples were delivered to the radiological screening van personnel at the Sample Coordination Facility.

cc: Brent Russell, ERM/Golder
Dan Katzman, ERM/Golder
Garry Allen, CST-6

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