

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : File

DATE: January 4, 1979

FROM : Margaret Anne Rogers, H-12

MAR

SUBJECT : ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER 1978

SYMBOL : H12-79-25

MAIL STOP: 490

Twenty percent of my time was spent talking with various people on various subjects, 3% was spent on the geochemistry study and 60% was spent on the update of LA-6848-MS. Baush & Lomb returned the Stero Zoom Transfer Scope unassembled on December 20th. Barry W. Burton transferred on December 11th to act as my assistant on the geologic mapping project.

1091 Reports

Work during December 1978 toward objective (1) maintenance of a continuous record of all former and current operational or research activities at the disposal sites.

Update information requested from H-7 and H-12 individuals is still not complete. A meeting on December 5th with H-7 represented by Tom Keenan, Lud Emelity, Jerry Buchholz, John Warren, and Cindy Murphy and with Jim Steger, H-12, and myself clarified some of my needs. Inventory information needed for Area G and T should be complete by the end of January. December 11th C. W. Christensen promised to have his review of LA-6848-MS "soon." December 14th O. D. Thompson, H-7, promised to provide the additional information I need on Area T "soon."

Proofing of Appendix H, Vol. II of LA-6848-MS, Records of Disposals to Area C Shafts, was completed and an explanation of terms, abbreviations, who helped characterize waste, and who compiled the appendix was written.

As a result of the review of LA-6848-MS by John Enders, H-Division Consultant, the possibility of a yet-to-be-identified radioactive disposal area in the vicinity of the airport which was active in 1943-1944 was raised. This disposal area would pre-date Areas A and B. Enders suggested we contact Tobias Gomez (El Rancho), one of the early drivers who picked up contaminated waste, to verify this.

Dean Meyer, H-Division Consultant, has through the years (since 1952) raised the issue of whether a radioactive waste disposal site exists north of DP Road. An April 9, 1948 memo found in ENG-3 records on waste disposal states:



TO: File
H12-79-25

-2

DATE: January 4, 1979

1. "Confirming agreements reached in this office on April 6, this is to suggest that, pending the construction of a Destructor for Contaminated Materials, you submit a job order request for the digging of a fenced-in ditch for burial of such materials.
2. As a suggestion, the area north of the DP road between the Zia Salvage Yard and the AEC Driver Training Station would seem suitable. And, since the material in both ditches will have to be dug up some day and shipped off for disposal elsewhere, it would be handy to have the work confined to one locality."

On May 6, 1948 an X priority was sent to Zia to construct Area C. It could be reasoned that because of the big May 3, 1948 fire in Area B south of DP Road that this area north of DP Road was never used; but it disturbs me that nearly every time Dean Meyer and I have visited DP Site to talk about disposal areas he brings up the question of an area on the north of DP Road.

I think the possibility of two additional radioactive waste disposal areas needs investigation NOW. Already retirement of those involved is a problem in sorting this out, and in the future, death may make it impossible.

Old H-1 Records in Records Storage were gone through and also those old ones from ENG-3 on waste disposal.

Work during December 1978 toward objective (4) description of the geologic, biologic, and hydrologic pathways by which releases might occur.

The results from the U analysis of the 92 samples of Bandelier Tuff collected across the Pajarito Plateau were received. They are in accord with those received in the preliminary study. Uranium concentration decreases from bottom to top of the section.

MAR:tj

Distribution: J. Steger
W. Abee
B. Burton
M. Wheeler
V. Christie
V. Gutschick
L. Walker