

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Distribution

DATE: May 13, 1974

FROM : LaMar Johnson, H-8 Group Leader 

SUBJECT : INFORMATION ON SOLID RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AT LASL

SYMBOL : H8-WM-57

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The enclosed information on solid waste management at LASL is intended to implement Director's Office Memorandum No. 48 - Radioactive Solid Waste Management Policy issued September 27, 1973. The objective of the Policy is to improve the control of radioactive waste materials at LASL.

A revised AEC Manual Chapter 0511 - Radioactive Waste Management was issued September 19, 1973. This Manual Chapter states AEC policy and criteria with regard to the management of AEC-generated radioactive waste. The following is a summary of specific requirements of the Manual Chapter:

1. Technical and administrative efforts should be directed toward:
 - a. a marked reduction in the gross volume of radioactive solid waste generated
 - b. a marked reduction in the amount of radioactivity in such waste.
2. Volume reduction technology, such as compaction and incineration shall be adapted for use with radioactive solid waste and placed in operation wherever practical.
3. AEC-generated solid waste contaminated with transuranic isotopes at an activity concentration greater than ten nanocuries per gram (10 nCi/g) shall receive special handling. Transuranic isotopes include ^{233}U (with its daughter isotopes), plutonium and transplutonium isotopes except ^{238}Pu and ^{241}Pu . Plutonium 238 and ^{241}Pu contaminated wastes are to be included when so indicated by ^{239}Pu impurities (>10 nCi/g), or when required by local policy. (The LASL has established an interim local policy that ^{238}Pu waste at activity concentrations above 100 nCi/g must receive the special handling indicated.) Special handling requirements for this waste include the following:
 - a. it shall be segregated from other radioactively contaminated solid waste
 - b. combustible and noncombustible transuranic wastes shall be packaged separately



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- c. it shall be packaged and stored under conditions that it can be readily retrieved in an intact, contamination-free condition after 20 years in storage
 - d. the waste package shall be suitably labeled so that the waste contained can be identified by cross reference to permanent records.
4. Waste materials contaminated with transuranic isotopes at activity concentrations below 10 nCi/g (below 100 nCi/g for ^{238}Pu) will continue to be handled as in the past.

Individuals or groups wishing complete copies of AECM-0511 should contact the Waste Management Section of Group H-8.

In order for H-Division to meet these directives, it is necessary for the Waste Management Section to establish guidelines for their operations. Moreover, the Waste Management Section is prepared to assist operating units of the Laboratory in establishing necessary standard operating procedures for waste management.

Attached are the interim guidelines that the Waste Management Section of Group H-8 will be using. This introductory information is an initial effort in deriving methods of operation under the LASL Policy. As the LASL solid radioactive waste management policies and procedures are formulated and revised, additional information will be submitted by the Waste Management Section. Specific problems of Laboratory operating units in the area of solid radioactive waste management should be brought to the attention of the Waste Management Section. Comments and suggestions on the attached interim guidelines are requested and should be forwarded directly to LaMar Johnson, H-8 group leader.

LJJ:jb

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