

ER ID 00616

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LAMOS SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO Dean D. Meyer, Group Leader, H-1      DATE April 8, 1953  
FROM Charles D. Blackwell, General Monitoring Section, H-1  
SUBJECT TUBALLOY IN CITY DUMP  
SYMBOL H-1

On April 3, 1953, Quay E. Nims of CMR-6 came to this office and reported approximately 125 pounds of tuballoy missing from the dock of TU-Building. This material was in the form of scrap and oxide and he thought it may have been removed by mistake to the city dump. The dump was monitored and one spot was found that exceeded 20 mr/hr beta contamination. The area was roped off and signs posted late on the afternoon of April 3, 1953, and all dumping was restricted to the western area of the dump.

On the morning of April 6, 1953, a crew of monitors returned to the city dump and started a survey at the bottom of the dump opposite to where the hot spot had been found, hoping to find one large piece of the material which could have worked its way to the bottom of the dump. No contamination could be found at the bottom of the dump, so a check was made up the entire side of the dump to the top, and contamination was found to be confined to an area extending about 8 feet down from the top of the bank. The top layer of ashes was removed and approximately 26 pounds of the material was recovered, even though it had been burned. This was separated very carefully and placed in a box which was sealed and returned to Quay Nims. In addition, two boxes of oxide mixed with dirt and ashes were taken from the dump for removal to the contaminated dump.

The area where the material was discovered remained contaminated and three truck loads of dirt were placed over the spot and the area was monitored. Readings in two spots remained approximately .1 mr/hr but no more dirt could be placed over the spots because the incline is so great that additional dirt would only slide into the canyon.

The truck hauling the material from TU-Building on the night of April 1, 1953, was checked and the highest reading found was .2 mr/hr. The truck was taken to the decontamination pit and washed and the reading was reduced to zero. Urine samples were taken on 23 men working on the dump run and no significant counts were found.

Weekly surveys will be made at the city dump for the next several weeks to check on the shifting and erosion of the dirt covering the contaminated spot. If dirt shifts or is carried away by erosion, which would remove the protective shield from the contamination, then more dirt will be hauled to provide adequate shielding.

*Charles D. Blackwell*  
CHARLES D. BLACKWELL

CDB/eg  
James Farh

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SEP 18 1991  
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Drug Contamination

<u>Name</u>	<u>Z-Number</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Mascarenas, O.	29401	8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$
Moore, R.F.	4109	0
Montoya, D.	439	0
Romero, Joe	18959	0
Trujillo, R.	32735	0
Jaramill, I	395	8
Roybal, J.	1052	0
Maestas, J.	5232	0
Romero, P.	435	0
Draguro, J.	4001	10
Viarrial, C.	287	9
Herrera, G.	15465	8
Lujan, P.	401	0
Moises, A.	9303	0
Martinez, J.	433	0
Gomez, M.	277	8
Garcia, A.	?	8
Olguin, J.	903	9
Abeyta, J.	5553	9
Gonzales, A.	11317	10
Romero, S.	3779	10
Romero, J.	5269	9

Results of urinalyses made on personnel who work in the vicinity of the City Dump. Tolerance for tuballoy in urine is 100  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ .