



Environmental Protection & Compliance Division
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OCT 18 2017
Date:
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LA-UR: 17-29489
Locates Action No.: N/A

Mr. John E. Kieling
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
Santa Fe, NM 87505



Subject: Destruction of Unstable Container at TA-3-1698, Los Alamos National Laboratory

Dear Mr. Kieling:

On October 12, 2017, the Los Alamos National Security (LANS), in coordination with the Department of Energy (DOE), requested approval from the New Mexico Environment Department Hazardous Waste Bureau (NMED-HWB) to conduct emergency treatment of an unstable hazardous waste chemical at Technical Area (TA) 3 by contained detonation. The NMED-HWB provided written authorization for the treatment, *Emergency Permit # 17-004*, on October 12, 2017.

On October 12, 2017, a 1-liter container was discovered that contained approximately 100-150 milliliters of anhydrous tetrahydrofuran (99.9%), which had crystalized and begun to polymerize. Emergency Management responders determined the container was unstable and posed an imminent and substantial endangerment to human health or the environment. LANS Emergency Management also determined that the safest response was to conduct on-site emergency treatment by detonation in a total containment vessel (TCV). Treatment was conducted at TA-3-1698 in accordance with 40 CFR 270.1(c)(3) and 40 CFR 270.61. The destruction was completed on October 12, 2017 at 3:14 pm, in a controlled and safe manner. Emergency treatment was effective and no waste residue or other hazardous materials remained after treatment.




Mr. John E. Kieling
EPC-DO: 17-438

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Please contact Mark P. Haagenstad of my staff at (505) 665-2014 if additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,


FOIA Tania Van Valkenburg
Group Leader

TVV/MPH/AME:am

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