



Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

JUL 17 1998

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mr. Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2004 Galisteo St., Building A
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87505



Dear Mr. Garcia:

Subject: Emergency Chemical Destruction at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)
from Technical Area 3 Building 494 (TA3-494)

The purpose of this letter is to provide a written report notifying you of the emergency chemical destruction of one container of a potentially unstable chemical. Approval to perform this activity was provided to Alice Barr of LANL's Hazardous and Solid Waste Group by Steve Zappe of your staff via telephone on July 13, 1998.

During waste management operations at TA3-494, Room 107, personnel found a 4-liter bottle of 1,4 dioxane that had exceeded its shelf life. Upon examination of the container and review of the Material Safety Data Sheets, it was determined that the material was potentially a threat to human health and safety. The Emergency Management and Response Group was contacted to evaluate and discuss the disposal of the chemical. It was determined that an emergency chemical destruction was necessary. The Hazardous Devices Team (HDT) and the Hazardous Material Response Team were contacted to assist in the disposal of the chemical.

Air modeling calculations performed by the Environmental, Safety and Health, Group 17 personnel determined that the planned release of the material generated during the operation would not result in significant toxic release concentrations at public access points. Safe stand-off distances for the chemical destruction personnel were calculated and observed.

The container was moved to TA-49 by the HDT. Destruction of the substance and container was completed on July 14, 1998. An inspection of the surrounding area after the destruction process was completed revealed no unusual occurrences. The residue in



RED LANL TA-3 98

Tc

Benito Garcia

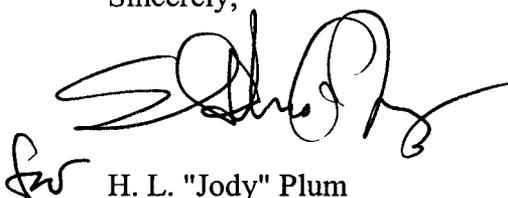
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the burn box has been sampled and is undergoing analysis. When analysis is complete, the residue will be characterized and managed accordingly.

If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 665-5042.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. L. Plum". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "L".

H. L. "Jody" Plum
Office of Environment

LAAME:6JP-084