

John K -



Department of Energy

Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544



VIA HAND DELIVERY

SEP 01 1998

Mr. Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo St., Building A
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Subject: Emergency Chemical Destruction at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)
Technical Area (TA) 3

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 John Kieling of your staff via telephone on August 26, 1998.

During waste management operations at TA-3, Building SM-38, Room 122, Johnson Controls Northern New Mexico (JCNNM) personnel found a squeeze bottle containing approximately four milligrams of crystallized picric acid. Upon consultation with JCNNM Health, Safety and Environment personnel, it was determined that the material was potentially a threat to human health and safety. Emergency Management and Response (EM&R) personnel were contacted to evaluate and discuss the management of the chemical. It was determined that an emergency chemical destruction was necessary. The Hazardous Devices Team (HDT) and the Hazardous Material Response Team (HAZMAT) were contacted to assist in the destruction of the chemical.

Air Modeling calculations performed by the Environment, Safety and Health Group (ESH-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 chemical and container was completed on August 26, 1998. An inspection of the surrounding area after the destruction process was completed revealed no unusual occurrences. The residue in



RED LANL TA-3

TK

Benito Garcia

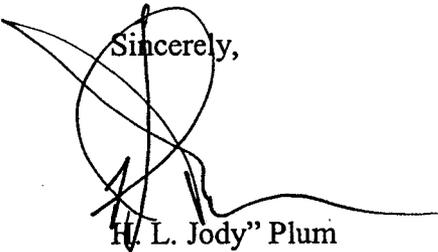
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the burn box has been sampled and is undergoing analysis. When analysis is complete, the residue will be characterized and managed accordingly.

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

Sincerely,



H. L. Jody" Plum
Office of Environment

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