

TA 03



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Date: October 17, 2005
Refer to: ENV-SWRC:05-0072

John Kieling
Permits Management Program
State of New Mexico Environment Department
Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303



SUBJECT: Destruction of unsafe chemicals at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)

Dear Mr. Kieling:

The purpose of this letter is to provide a written report describing the destruction of three containers of chemicals that were potentially shock, friction, and heat sensitive. I notified you of this material on October 6, 2005; in a subsequent response to me (October 7) you concurred with the proposed management.

The three containers, located at Technical Area (TA) 3, Building 29, held a total of approximately 225 grams of a nitrocellulose material called Parlodion. Because the material appeared to be partially decomposed and the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) warns that such a condition could result in detonation or autoignition, it was advisable to handle it as a shock-sensitive explosive. The Emergency Management and Response Group (EM&R) determined that use of the burn-box, located at TA-49, was the most appropriate method to manage these items safely. On October 12, 2005, an Incident Command was set up at TA-3-29 and safety zones were established. The Parlodion was placed into a fragmentation bag, hand carried to a chemical/explosive trailer and transported to TA-49 by the LANL Hazardous Devices Team (HDT). The containers were then placed into the burn-box where the HDT bomb technician initiated the burn, consuming the chemicals.

Prior to destruction of the items, a special work permit was written that defined the scope of work, and identified the hazards, personnel and responsibilities. The Environmental Stewardship Division's Meteorology and Air Quality Group determined that no significant air emissions would be generated by these activities and made a verbal courtesy notification to the New Mexico Environment Department Air Quality Bureau on October 6.



A walk-down of the job was conducted and pre-job briefings were held. Safe standoff distances were observed. The handling, transport and destruction of the items were performed in accordance with the HDT and EM&R procedures. Inspection of the area of activity after the destruction revealed no unusual occurrences. Residue that remained in the burn box after the destruction was collected and submitted for Toxic Characteristic Leaching Procedure, semi-volatile organic, high explosive, and radiation analyses.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 667-0820.

Sincerely,



Alice Barr
Solid Waste and Regulatory Compliance Group

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