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CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

TA-6

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Bill Rankin, W-3

9 January 1952

Carl Buckland, Leader, H-1 Monitoring Section

CONTAMINATION OF AREA 6 ON 29 DECEMBER 1951 AND PROPOSED TUNNEL

H-1-M-9

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Henry Petrsilka called and requested an informal memo on the contamination of Area 6 following the shot on 29 December 1951. He also requested that we consider a proposed plan of constructing a tunnel in front of the berm. Comments and recommendations are listed below.

The gun and counters were highly contaminated following the 29 December shot. In addition, the ground in front of the berm, the C-2 wrecker, and various spots 150 to 200 yards away was contaminated with alpha counts ranging from 1,000 to greater than 20,000 counts per minute. Because of this contamination spreading to such a great distance, it has been proposed by W-3 to construct a tunnel which will confine the majority of the flying metal pieces and smoke.

At first thought the tunnel appeared as the best solution towards the end, however, upon discussing the muzzle blast from the gun with Roy Reider, of H-3 Safety, it was found that either the tunnel would be destroyed or that quantities of material would reflect back and spread over a greater area in back of the gun. Our first opinion was then reversed until you discussed a new tunnel plan ^{with} me early this week which has approximately a 4' x 6' hole towards the back of one side of the tunnel and adjacent to the berm. Your new plan met with the approval of Roy Reider, however, he still recommended discussing the reinforcements necessary with Stickles, of W-3. Assuming that a tunnel of this latter design is constructed, we would like to offer a few recommendations as follows.

1. Line the floor with concrete having a slight grade towards the berm so that any rain or washing down contemplated will go towards the berm and either be consumed by a small sump under the back portion of the tunnel or by a drain that will run into the adjoining canyon.
2. That the walls and roof be covered with some cheap galvanized iron or corrugated metal which can be painted as well as the concrete floor.
3. It maybe well to have the metal walls overlap the concrete so that no contamination will seep into the cracks.
4. Assuming that the roof will sooner or later become contaminated, it is recommended that posts be put in the ground outside of the tunnel so that at no time will the roof pieces touch the ground.

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PER DOC. REVIEW JAN. 1973

Carl Buckland, Section Leader
H-1 Monitoring Section

cc: Don MacMillan
Dean Meyer thru Leo Chelius

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Enclosure