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4/23/61

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Those Listed Below

DATE: May 27, 1960

FROM : E. E. Wingfield, Coordinator, AEC *E. E. Wingfield*

SUBJECT: DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS BY BURNING

SYMBOL: LT:KEW

On January 14, 1960 a program was initiated for the demolition of certain abandoned laboratory structures by burning. A plan for the demolition program was prepared January 15, 1960 and burning operations were started January 16, 1960. A written procedure was approved for each burning operation. The structures which were scheduled to be burned had served their usefulness and were for the most part contaminated with high explosive, radioactive materials or other contaminants which precluded the sale or re-use of the structures or materials in the structures for any purpose. The burning schedule continued until March 13, 1960, when unpredictable high winds and the absence of snow cover made it necessary to suspend the burning program.

A list of the buildings which were burned or flashed is enclosed as Appendix "A".

(continued)

- ➔ Addressees:
- Los Alamos Scientific Lab. (20)
 - AEC Supply
 - AEC Security (2)
 - AEC Fire Dept.
 - Area Mgr., LAAO
 - Elza Paul, Zia
 - Cecil Badsgard, Zia
 - Richard Crook, Zia
 - Leon Ross, Zia
 - James R. Maddy
 - E. E. Wingfield (5)



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Those Listed

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A few structures on the schedule remain and should be burned when weather conditions permit the burning to be accomplished safely. Prior to the resumption of the burning operations it is recommended that a committee be appointed to resurvey all areas to ascertain the completeness of burning or flashing and to locate and designate contaminated manholes and structures which were not burned or flashed and schedule these for burning when conditions permit. It is further recommended that this committee give consideration to methods of disposal of non-burnable material which has been flashed.

Attached is a list of structures which were not burned or flashed as Appendix "B".

During the burning operation several low order detonations occurred which confirmed our suspicion that it would have been hazardous to personnel attempting to demolish these structures by any means other than by fire. While none of these detonations could be considered to exert more force than a two-inch firecracker, in my opinion, many could have resulted in injuries to personnel had they been in the immediate vicinity of the detonation. Several of the structures which were burned contained radioactive contamination and on some of these structures Group H-1 took air samples during the burning operation and the results showed that no radioactive contamination was air-borne.

I believe that the demolition of these buildings by burning under controlled conditions constituted a considerable contribution to the over-all fire protection program since their existence always presented a serious fire potential and a fire under adverse conditions could have resulted in destruction of valuable property and equipment and a high monetary loss since in some cases it would have been difficult to protect this exposed property without undue risk to Fire Department personnel and equipment because of the possibility of HE detonations.

2 Attachments:

1. Appendix "A"
2. Appendix "B"

DEMOLITION OF ABANDONED LABORATORY BUILDINGS BY BURNING

<u>January 16, 1960</u>	
TA-6-10	TA-9-7
TA-6-13	TA-9-11
TA-6-14	TA-9-12
TA-6-15	TA-9-13
	TA-9-14
<u>January 23, 1960</u>	TA-9-16
TA-22-26	TA-9-17
TA-6-16	TA-9-56
TA-6-17	
TA-6-21	<u>January 31, 1960</u>
TA-6-22	TA-9-18
TA-6-23	TA-9-8
TA-6-24	TA-9-9
TA-6-25	TA-9-10
TA-6-26	
TA-6-27	<u>February 3, 1960</u>
TA-6-28	TA-9-57
TA-6-29	TA-9-58
TA-6-30	TA-9-5
TA-6-38	
TA-6-49	<u>February 5, 1960</u>
	TA-16-490
<u>January 30, 1960</u>	TA-16-491
TA-9-2	TA-16-492
TA-9-3	TA-16-493
TA-9-6	TA-16-494
	TA-16-495

(continued)

February 19, 1960 (continued)

TA-16-69

TA-16-70

TA-16-71

TA-16-72

TA-16-81

TA-16-83

TA-16-84

TA-16-86

TA-16-100

TA-16-166

TA-16-113

February 21, 1960

TA-18-11

TA-18-12

February 27, 1960

TA-16-33

TA-16-32

TA-16-31

TA-16-39

TA-11-9

TA-11-10

TA-11-8

TA-11-7

February 28, 1960

TA-20-12

TA-20-14

March 5, 1960

TA-5-2

TA-5-3

TA-5-4

TA-5-5

TA-5-6

TA-5-10

March 12, 1960

TA-16-131

TA-16-94

TA-16-95

TA-16-96

TA-16-97

TA-16-98

TA-16-126

TA-16-127

TA-16-128

TA-16-129

TA-16-30

TA-16-40

TA-16-74

TA-16-18

(continued)

APPENDIX "B"

ABANDONED LABORATORY STRUCTURES NOT BURNED

- TA-5-1 Lab building exposes 2 plywood structures.
- TA-5-7 Steel barricade -- free of contamination.
- TA-5-9 Reinforced concrete chamber -- free of contamination.
- TA-5-12 Underground concrete pump house -- free of contamination.
- TA-5-13 Septic tank.
- TA-5-15 Experimental concrete wall -- free of contamination.
- TA-5-19 Platform on utility poles.
- TA-9-1 Laboratory and firing chamber -- exposes telephone cable.
- TA-9-4 Reinforced concrete firing chamber -- HE contaminated.
- TA-9-15 Recovery pit -- steel on timber -- HE contaminated.
- TA-9-60 Roadblock.
- TA-9-61 Roadblock
- TA-9-62 Basket washing facility -- HE contaminated.
- TA-9-88 Manhole.
- 15 Electrical manholes listed for TA-9 -- free of contamination.
- TA-14-14 Concrete and steel chamber -- HE contaminated -- exposes 14-5.
- TA-14-15 Concrete and steel chamber -- HE contaminated -- exposes 14-5.
- TA-16-25 Process building -- exposes building to remain.
- TA-16-34 Magazine -- HE contaminated -- walls caved in -- earth and ice on floor.

(continued)

Appendix "B"

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- TA-16-35 Equipment room -- clean -- exposes steam lines.
- TA-16-87 Trailer -- exposes building scheduled to remain.
- TA-16-102 Passageway between buildings 25 & 26 to remain.
- TA-16-103 Passageway between buildings 26 and 27 to remain.
- TA-16-120 Barricade -- exposes passageway 103.
- TA-16-125 Barricade -- exposes passageway 103.
- TA-16-158 Barricade-- steel -- earth filled -- clean.
- TA-16-159 Barricade -- steel -- earth filled -- clean.
- TA-16-507 Sump pit -- concrete -- HE contaminated.
- TA-16-510 Switch box -- exposes electrical utility pole.
- TA-27-1 Control building -- mostly concrete and earth covered -- exposes telephone cable.
- TA-27-2 Control building -- mostly concrete and earth covered -- exposes telephone cable.
- TA-1-90 Guard tower -- exposes Sigma vault.
- TA-15-19 Guard tower -- exposes R-20.
- TA-21-36 Guard tower -- withdrawn -- sold by Zia.
- TA-21-37 Guard tower -- withdrawn -- sold by Zia.
- TA-21-41 Guard tower -- withdrawn -- sold by Zia.
- TA-29-1 Magazine -- HE contaminated.
- TA-29-2 Magazine -- HE contaminated.

TA-06

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Document Title

Demolition of Buildings by Burning or Abandoned

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Organization(s)

Keyword(s)

E E Wingfield

U.S. Atomic Energy Commis: atmosphere
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Document Abstract

Describes a program of disposing of obsolete structures contaminated with high explosives or radionuclides by burning. It appears that a large number of structures were burned during the two month program.

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Period Stop

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Estimated

Analysts's Comments on Document's Relevance to Dose Reconstruction

Project(s)

Analyst

Review Date

Robert Burns

04/23/2001

CDC Category

1

Technical Area(s)

11
16
18
20
22
5
6
9

Contact(s)

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Original Location of Document

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