

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Roy Reider

DATE: 8 May 1973

FROM : R. W. Drake

SUBJECT : BIENNIAL INSPECTION, TA'S 10, 20, AND 27

SYMBOL : WX

1176
TA-10

On 3 May 1973, W. Clarence Courtright and Jack Bacastow of H-3, and I revisited former TA-20 and TA-27 sites to examine the ground for evidence of undetonated explosive and former Bayo Canyon Site, TA-10, to examine the vicinity of the former firing points to see what post-shot debris was newly visible on the surface of the ground since our last visit.

The objective of asking Jack to come with us was principally mine, and it was to transfer to some other (younger!) person some of the unique knowledge Court and I have about these locations, their history, and the goals of these reviews. During this trip, Jack learned enough about the appearance of weathered Comp B on the ground to make several significant finds independently.

At TA-20, former Sandia Canyon Site, we again--for the second successive visit (span four years)--failed to find any HE. We reaffirm our belief that the "Danger - Explosives Keep Out" signs can reasonably be taken down.

At TA-27 (old Gamma Site?), we found the order of two dozen individual chunks of what is surely Comp B, ranging in size from peas to filbert nuts. They had the classic appearance in all respects. The locations covered the entire range where we have found HE before, though the area around the former pit at the east end of the old site was most sparse. The areal density distribution of pieces of HE is not significantly down from what we have sensed in the past, certainly not by an order of magnitude. Erosive forces seem to be continuing to unearth the HE pieces systematically.

We paid particular attention to the perimeter of the new sewage lagoon of former TA-27, where major areas of the land surface were regraded and redistributed during the construction of the lagoon and in the course of creating the designer's drainage provisions around the lagoon compound. Some of these areas are known by us to have had HE pieces on the surface prior to the regrading. We found no HE in these areas during this visit.

We note that the Kappa Site safety fence needs repair immediately west of the lagoon compound. We again note for the AEC's benefit that several of the specific warning signs on the fence around the former bazooka range are badly faded.



Roy Reider

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Bayo Canyon was remarkably clean of debris, in fact (perhaps aided by the healthy growth of the grass planted just after the cleanup) it seemed to me to be as clean as at the time of our last visit, or even cleaner! There is much evidence of public use: horseback riding, recreational vehicle riding, sand hauling, rifle sighting, beer drinking.

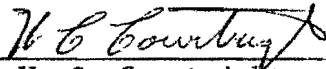


R. W. Drake

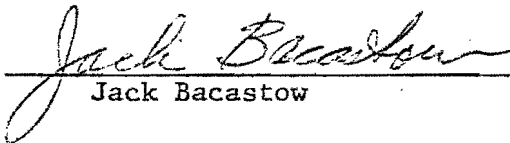
RWD/vg

cc: W. C. Courtright
Jack Bacastow
File
S. E. Russo
J. E. Dummer

CONCUR:



W. C. Courtright



Jack Bacastow