

Los Alamos

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memorandum

TO: A. P. Torres, WX-3, C930
DATE: August 7, 1985

FROM: J. F. Baytos
MAIL STOP/TELEPHONE: C920/7-3094

SYMBOL: M-1

SUBJECT: ANALYSES OF SOIL SAMPLES FOR RESIDUAL EXPLOSIVES FROM DRAINAGE DITCHES AT SUMP EFFLUENT OUTLETS (for July 18, 1984)

The soil samples taken from drainage ditches at the sump effluent outlets of S-Site operating buildings by the Sump Drain Inspection Committee on July 18, 1984, were analyzed for residual explosives content. In addition, the committee inspected and sampled the outfalls at TA-9 (AE-Site, Group M-1) for the first time. The results are presented in the attached table.

The culverts and ponds back of TA-16-260 still show a consistent amount of explosive. The only other spot showing a high concentration is the outfall at TA-16-478, P-Site, high-speed machining building. All other places sampled show 1% or less of total residual explosives as reported on previous memoranda.

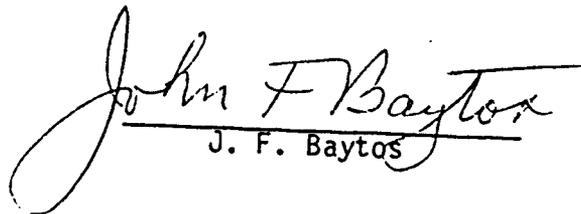
The TA-9 samples showed an explosives content at the outfall of TA-9-48, the machining building. The other probable points for accumulation and sedimentation of explosives showed very little and are reasonably clean.

The sampling was easier this time because we have acquired professional soil sampling equipment from J. M. Clements Associates, Inc., Newton, IA. Their JMC Mud Auger allowed us to twist drill into the soil or mud to a depth of 4 inches to get a core sample, which is more representative of the area. The shovel method of sampling always left us with questions.

The analytical procedure used was that developed previously, except a Beckman UV5270 spectrophotometer was used which duplicated the calibration curves of the earlier series.

In summary, there are no radical changes in the residual explosives when compared to earlier inspections. This large, random sampling of all outlets now can be the reference line for monitoring residual explosives at S-Site, as required by the DOE Explosives Safety Handbook.

JFB:mmm


J. F. Baytos



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ANALYSES OF SOIL SAMPLES FOR RESIDUAL EXPLOSIVES FROM
SUMP EFFLUENT OUTLET DRAINAGE DITCHES AT S-SITE OPERATING BUILDINGS

Building and Location of Samples		Acetone ^a Solubles (Wt%)	CCl ₄ ^b Insolubles (Wt%)	CCl ₄ ^c Solubles (Wt%)	HMX/d RDX (Wt%)	TNTd (Wt%)	Total Explosive (Wt%)
16-260	1 m from outfall	0.6					
16-260	10 m from outfall	14.9	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3
16-260	15 m (center of pond)	24.2	13.0	1.6	10.4	0.9	11.3
16-265	2 m from outfall	0.4	20.4	3.8	16.7	2.3	19.0
16-267	2 m from outfall	0.9	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
16-307	at outfall	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
16-340	0.5 m from outfall	2.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.4
16-342	1 m from outfall	0.6	0.5	1.9	0.1	0.9	1.0
16-380	1 m from outfall	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.2
16-400	0.5 m from outfall	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.4
16-401	at vessel, burning ground	0.9	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
16-407	at vessel, burning ground	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.4
16-430	0.5 m, middle outfall	7.8	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.5
16-460	0.5 m at outfall	0.2	0.1	7.6	0.0	0.5	0.5
16-478	1 m below berm, P-Site	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
16-478	3 m below berm, P-Site	5.4	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.1
9-40	6 m N of manhole and weir, AE-121	0.8	4.6	0.7	4.6	0.1	4.7
			0.1	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.3
9-44	100 m E Lagoon, 25 m N mag 44	0.4					
9-48	0.5 m from outfall	6.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
9-48	1. m from outfall	0.4	2.9	3.2	2.7	0.8	3.5
16-460	control, blank soil	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1
			0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

^aThe filtrate comes from the acetone Soxlet extract on a dried, crushed, 14-mesh sieved, rolled, and quartered sample. This filtrate includes explosives, decomposition products, plastic, lubrication oils, and other natural acetone soluble materials.

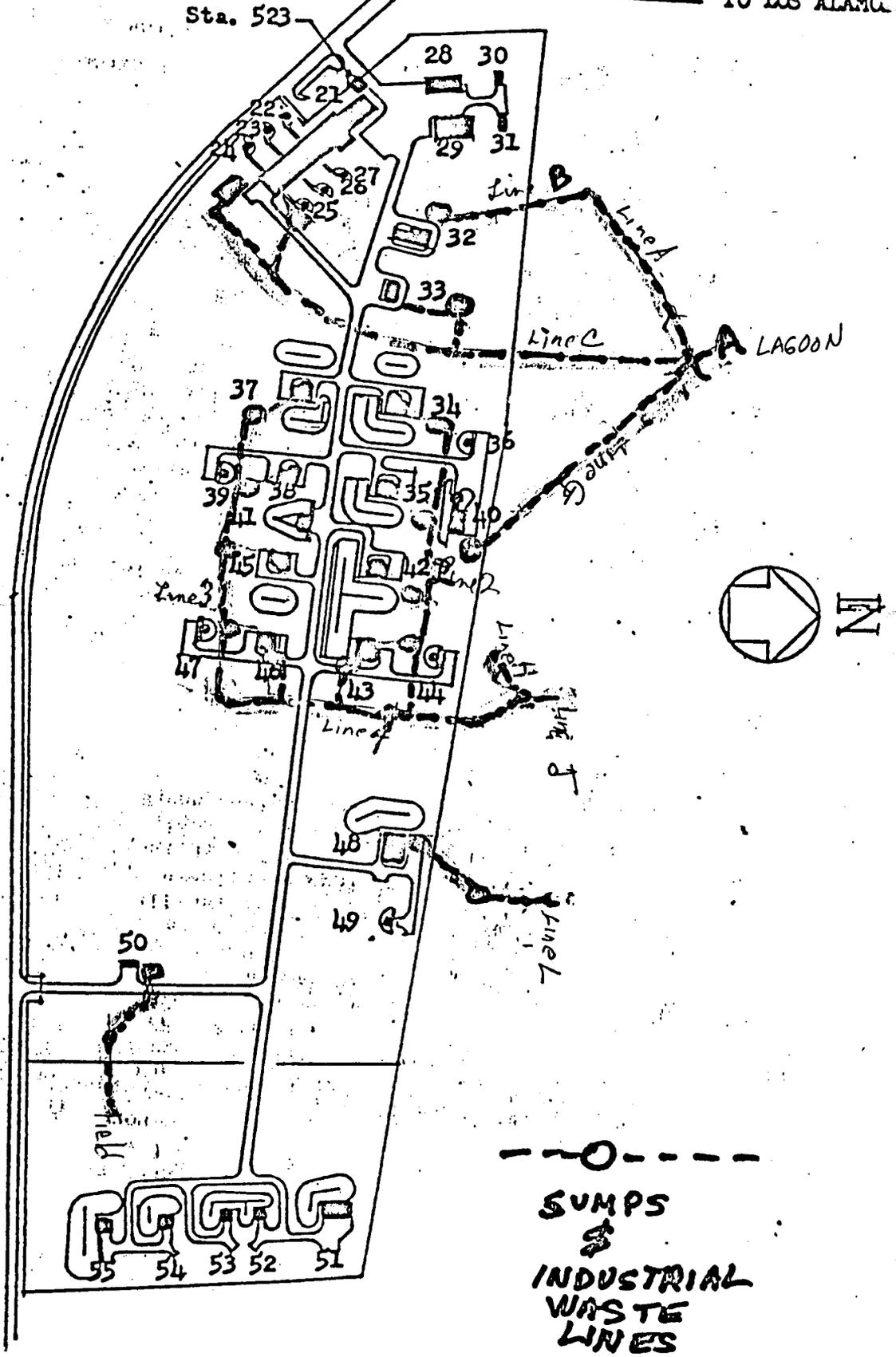
^bThe residue from the carbon tetrachloride wash includes the RDX and HMX fractions and other decomposition products from the acetone extract.

^cThe filtrate from the carbon tetrachloride wash includes the TNT fraction and other soluble products.

^dThese values were determined on the Beckman UV 5270 ultraviolet spectrophotometer.

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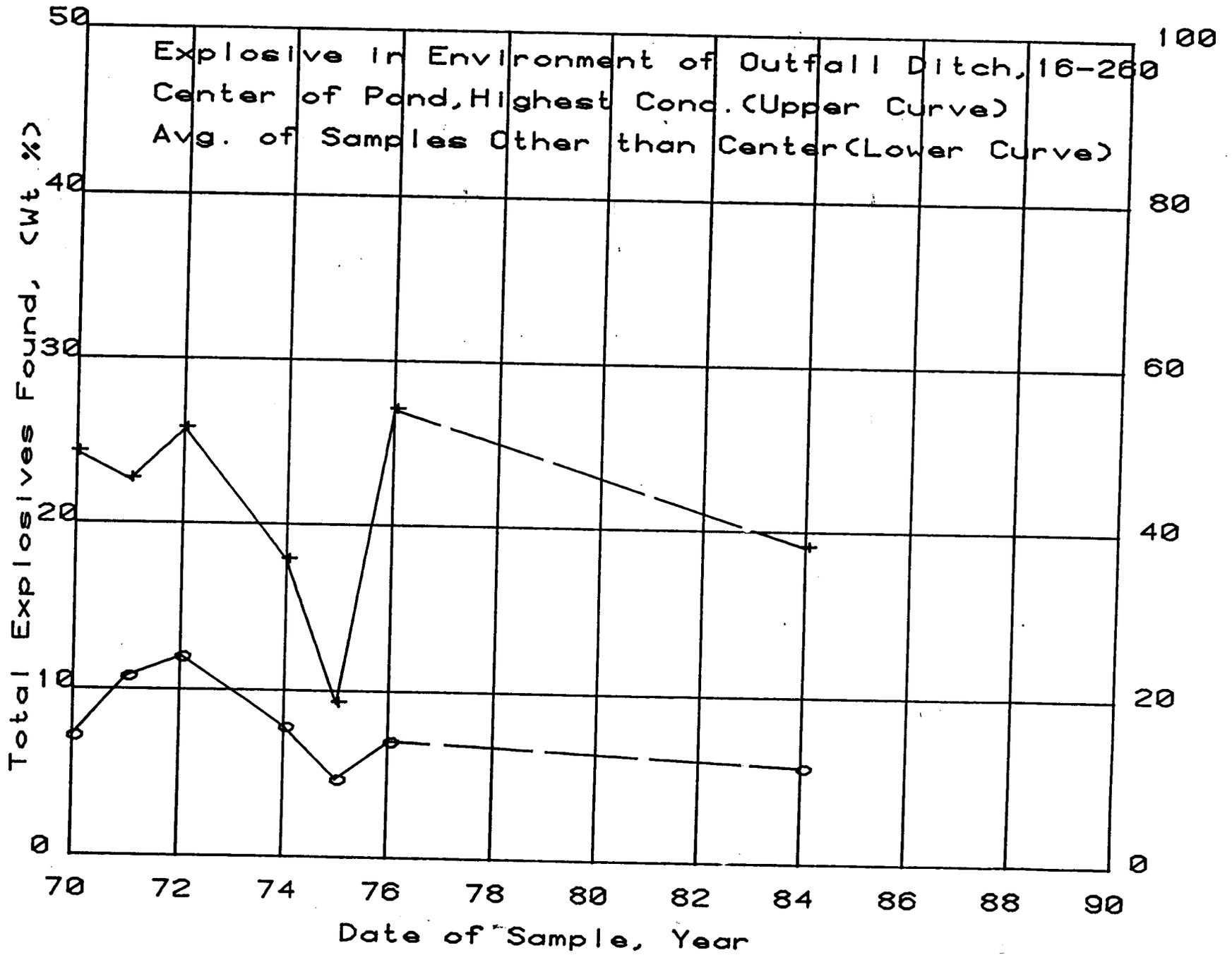


Fig. 1: Plot of Explosives Found vs Year of Inspection

