

memorandum

TO: BRAD MARTIN, CLS-DO, MS E525

DATE: August 13, 1992

FROM: MIKE BARR *MJB*

MAIL STOP/TELEPHONE: C-930/7-6866

SYMBOL: WX-3-92-674

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: TA-16 BURNING GROUND HISTORY

TA-16

- In the past, from 1986 to 1988, the wastewater from the pressure filter tanks drained into a hypalon pond. Before then, it was allowed to drain into the field south of the filter tanks and eventually into a tributary of the Del Valle Canyon. Presently, the drainage is processed through a carbon filter/treatment unit, 16-363, before discharge to the canyon. The two are joined to a common line in a manhole; the common line then goes from the manhole to the filter treatment unit, TA-16-363. It is estimated that 50,000 gal/yr is now being processed through this unit. Structure 16-363, previously 16-228, was constructed in 1988.

- The basket wash facility was in operation from 1951-1966. There were modifications made to the building distribution scheme when trough TA-16-1129 was constructed and when trough 16-1136 was dismantled. The building is now used for equipment storage.

- Burning tray, TA-16-394, is used for burning oil and solvents contaminated with HE. The contaminated oils come from machines at TA-16-260 and TA-16-430 primarily, and contaminated solvents from buildings TA-16-340 and -460. Pad 16-394 was originally used as an HE slurry collection and burn pad but was converted to an oil/solvent pad about the time that filter vessels TA-16-401 and -406 were constructed.

- Burning slab's 16-388 and -399 were built in 1951 to burn solid HE. Burn tables were incorporated in 1988 for the purpose of eliminating ground contamination. In contrast, HE-contaminated equipment is burned at TA-16-387, the main flash pad.



- The HE-water slurry that is emptied into filter vessels 16-401 & -406 is dried using forced heated air for 24-48 hours; the dry explosive is then burned. The two vessels are used alternately with slurry being dumped into one while the other is drying or being cleaned.
- Former burn pad, TA-16-392, received suspected uranium-contaminated washwater from the basket wash facility, TA-16-390. From about 1966 to 1980, the pad was occasionally used for burning HE-contaminated material that was also suspected of being contaminated with uranium. This pad has not been used since the early 1980s.

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