



Department of Energy
 Albuquerque Operations Office
 Los Alamos Area Office
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

OCT 05 1999



VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mr. John Kieling
 RCRA Permits Program
 Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
 New Mexico Environment Department
 2004 Galisteo St., Building A
 P.O. Box 26110
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Subject: Chemical Destruction at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL),
 Technical Area (TA) 49

The purpose of this letter is to provide a written report notifying you of the destruction of a small container that was potentially shock sensitive. Approval to perform this activity was provided to Alice Barr of the University of California (UC) Hazardous and Solid Waste Group by you via telephone on September 30, 1999.

During closure activities at TA-16 Area P, personnel found a small glass vial containing approximately 1 gram of an unknown white crystalline substance that tested positive for peroxides using the wet peroxide test strip field analysis. The substance was both inside and outside the container's lid. Emergency Management and Response personnel were contacted to evaluate and discuss the management of this container and determined that destruction in the burn box was necessary. The Hazardous Devices Team and the Hazardous Material Response Team were contacted to assist in the destruction of this container.

UC's Air Quality Group personnel determined that the planned release of the material generated during the operation would not result in significant emissions with respect to air quality requirements. Safe stand-off distances for the chemical destruction personnel were calculated and personnel not directly associated with this operation were excluded from the destruction area.

RED LANL TA-16 '99

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Mr. John Kieling

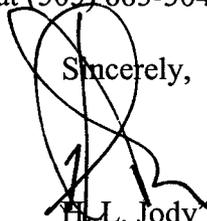
2

OCT 05 1999

Destruction of the container was completed on October 4, 1999 at TA-49. An inspection of the surrounding area after the destruction process was completed revealed no unusual occurrences. The residue in the burn box has been sampled and is undergoing analysis. When analysis is complete, the residue will be characterized and managed accordingly.

If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 665-5042.

Sincerely,



H.L. Jody Plum
Office of Environment

LAAME:3JP-124