

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Charles A. Reynolds, Group Leader, ENG-4 DATE: Aug. 10, 1972

FROM : Dean D. Meyer, Group Leader, H-1

SUBJECT: WASTE DISPOSAL SHAFTS FOR GROUP H-7, TA-21

SYMBOL : H-1-72-218

In our recent meeting on the subject of disposal shafts and pit needs for FY 73, you asked about contamination and radiation problems that might be encountered during the excavation work.

The excavation work at TA-54 will be in clean areas and no contamination or radiation exposures are anticipated. The digging of shafts for Group H-7 at TA-21 does involve potential radiation problems. The location of the H-7 shafts at TA-21 is between two old seepage pits used, at one time, for disposal of contaminated liquids and it is possible that some of this material could have migrated out of the pits. If so, the drilling equipment could be contaminated. Also, the new shafts are to be drilled near existing holes which are in use. The contaminated slurry from the waste treatment plant is pumped into the holes through a fire hose. If the hose should leak, the drilling equipment could be contaminated. It might be necessary to curtail Group H-7 activities during the drilling.

Decontamination of equipment is difficult and not always successful, so you should be prepared to purchase the equipment in case of accidental contamination.

The exposure to the operating personnel is, of course, of concern, but this can be controlled by the use of protective clothing and respiratory protective devices.

Any drilling work in the TA-21 disposal area must be cleared with the Group H-1 Section at the site.

Dean D. Meyer
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DDM/eh
Xc: C. W. Christenson, H-7
John Enders, H-1
Wilbur Workman, H-1
File



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TA 21