

## OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : C. W. Christenson, H-7  
DATE: April 11, 1974  
Via : LaMar Johnson, H-8  
FROM : Keith Schiager, H-8  
SUBJECT : USE OF AREA T FOR RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL/STORAGE  
SYMBOL : H8WM174

1013  
7A21

Concern has been expressed by H-8 staff members over the proposed use of Area T for sub-surface interim storage of DP-257 cement paste waste. In particular, the advisability of digging a waste storage pit in Area T between the old seepage basins 1 and 3 is questioned based upon past radiological monitoring data from the area, coupled with an overall lack of recent (post 1960) detailed information on contamination already in the tuff, movements of contamination and water through the tuff in the area, and drainage patterns in and around the area. Therefore, although the funding for the project now has been made available, we request that work on the digging of the storage pit be delayed until the necessary investigations can be carried out to determine area suitability and to identify needed area improvements.

Prior to initiating any pit construction activities in Area T, the following specific tasks should be carried out, documented, and the results reviewed.

- a. Drilling of auger test holes (8 are suggested in the area, with a minimum analysis of the auger samples for gross alpha and beta-gamma activities) is necessary to determine what initial problems may be encountered in the pit digging operation, and to attempt to map any movement of radionuclides.
- b. Analysis of the auger samples to determine the soil chemistry and lithology of the area is considered necessary to determine water and radionuclide movement patterns in the tuff in this area.
- c. Detailed contour mapping to determine drainage patterns into and through the area is essential since the proposed storage pit is directly between, and so close to, the highly contaminated seepage areas. Alterations of drainage patterns in Area T will probably be necessary even if the storage pit is not dug.

In essence, it is felt that there is not sufficient documented information about Area T to allow analysis at this time of the consequences and possible problems that



TO: C. W. Christenson, H-7 2-

DATE: April 11, 1974

could arise during or after the digging of the pit. It is estimated that the majority of this work could be completed by the middle of May.

KJS/JLW:jb

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