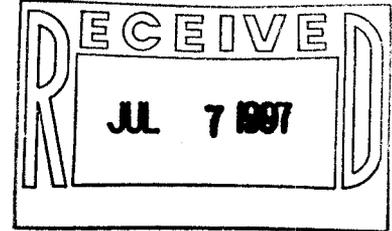




Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

JUL 07 1997



VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mr. Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo St., Bldg. A
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Subject: Emergency Destruction of Chemicals

The purpose of this letter is to provide a written report for the emergency chemical destruction at Technical Area (TA) 21, on June 30, 1997, pursuant to the requirements of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, Module II, General Facility Conditions, paragraph II.K.2.c. Verbal approval to perform this activity was provided by Stu Dinwiddie of your staff to Alice Barr, LANL, via telephone on June 26 and 27, 1997. Submittal of this letter within 5 (working) days of the burn was also agreed on during these conversations.

During waste management operations associated with the relocation from TA-21, Building 5, two containers of potentially hazardous materials were discovered. A third container was also found near an Environmental Restoration remediation activity at TA-16. It was determined that all three items could be placed in the burn box at one time. They were described as follows:

1. A one-liter metal can of outdated ethyl ether in a freezer in the hall of Building 5. This material was 11 years past the expiration date for safe use.
2. A thirty-milliliter bottle containing 10 to 15 milliliters of unknown liquid that fumed when the bottle was opened. The bottle was in a refrigerator in the satellite storage area in Building 5.
3. A small glass container of unknown material with a residue around the lid that the Hazardous Devices Team transported from TA-16 for destruction.

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Benito Garcia

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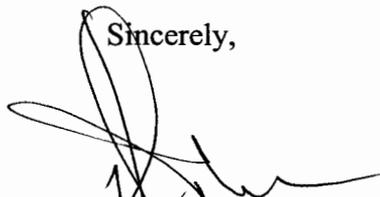
It was determined that the containers should be presumed reactive, were potentially a threat to human health and safety, and that an emergency chemical destruction was required.

Chemical Science and Technology Division and Engineering Science Applications Division prepared Special Work Permits (SWP) for disposal of the chemicals. Organizations that contributed to and approved the SWP included Hazardous Materials Response Team, Environment, Safety and Health Division, Hazardous Devices Team, Emergency Management & Response Group, Air Quality Group (ESH-17), Water Quality and Hydrology Group (ESH-18), and Hazardous and Solid Waste Group (ESH-19). Air modeling calculations performed by ESH-17 determined that, should the burn cause any toxic material to be released to the air, it would not result in significant toxic gas concentrations at public access points. Safe stand-off distances for the chemical destruction personnel were calculated and observed.

On June 30, 1997, the items above were removed from TA-21, Building 5, and TA-16 and destroyed in the HDT burn box behind a concrete rubble berm between Buildings 5 and 2. Destruction of the substances and their containers was completed at 1:10 p.m. on June 30, 1997. An inspection of the burn box and surrounding area after the destruction process was completed revealed no unusual occurrences. The residue has been sampled and is undergoing analysis. When analysis is complete, the residue will be characterized, managed and disposed of accordingly.

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

Sincerely,



H.V. "Jody" Plum

Office of Environment and Projects

LAAMEP:6JP-031

cc:

S. Dinwiddie

Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau

New Mexico Environment Department

2044 Galisteo St., Bldg. A

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Santa Fe, NM 87505

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Benito Garcia

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bcc:

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