



Department of Energy

Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

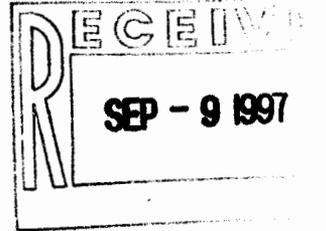
Stu

September 9, 1997

RED LANL TA-21 97

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mr. Benito Garcia, Chief
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo Street, Building A
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502



Dear Mr. Garcia:

Subject: Hazardous Waste - Emergency Action, TA-21, Building 3 North

The purpose of this letter is to provide a written report notifying you of the emergency chemical destruction at Technical Area (TA) 21, on September 5, 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. Approval to perform this activity was provided by Kim Hill of your staff via telephone on September 3, 1997 to Alice Barr of LANL's Hazardous and Solid Waste Group.

During waste management operations associated with the decommissioning of TA-21, Building 3 North, a container of dry tetraethylammonium perchlorate was found. This chemical as dry solid crystals is forbidden for transport by the Department of Transportation (DOT). Upon review of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), it was determined that the container was potentially a threat to human health and safety. The Hazardous Devices Team (HDT) was contacted to assist in the disposal of this chemical.

The container was moved approximately 300 feet to a burn box located southwest of TA-21, Building 5. Air modeling calculations performed by Environmental, Safety and Health, Group 17 personnel determined that the planned release of any toxic material generated during the operation 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.

Destruction of the chemical and it's container was completed by 11:45 AM on September 5, 1997. An inspection of the burn box and surrounding area after the destruction process was completed and revealed no unusual occurrences. The residue has been sampled and is undergoing analysis. When analysis is complete, the residue will be characterized and managed accordingly.

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Benito Garcia

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If you should have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at (505) 665-5042.

Sincerely,



Jsr H.L. "Jody" Plum
Office of Environment and Projects

cc:

Dr. Stuart (Stu) Dinwiddie, Ph.D.
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials
Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo St., Bldg. A
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

bcc:

J. White, LANL, ESH-19 (970241.AB), MS K490
A. Barr, LANL, ESH-19, MS K490
S. Bryan, LANL, EM&R, MS D426
S. Helmick, LANL, CST-25, MS J519