



Department of Energy

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

NOV 06 1997

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

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:

The purpose of this letter is to provide a written report notifying you of an emergency chemical destruction at TA-21 on November 5, 1997. Approval to perform this activity was provided by Steve Zappe of your staff, via telephone (from Hilary Noskin) on November 5, 1997 at 12:50 p.m. This report is submitted 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.

During waste management operations at TA-21-31, personnel found one glass jar containing approximately 25 milliliters of an unknown and presumed unstable liquid. The bottle was contained within a plastic bag and placed inside a small plastic cooler. The bottle labels were mostly unreadable and the plastic bag showed signs of corrosion, indicating possible leakage. The plastic bag and the cooler used as secondary containment showed evidence that the material was reactive and that an opaque film had formed on their surfaces. The deteriorated condition of the original containment, plus the potential for instability and toxicity, indicated that sampling the liquid could pose a threat to human health and safety. The Hazardous Devices Team (HDT) and Hazardous Material Response Team (HAZMAT) were contacted to assist in the disposal of the chemical. It was determined that an emergency chemical destruction was required.

The Hazardous Materials Team carried the item from Building 31 to the disposal location on the south side of TA-21, between Buildings 5 and 210, which are unoccupied. Air modeling calculations performed by Environment, Safety and Health, ESH-17 Air Quality personnel determined that the planned release of the material generated during the operation would not result in significant toxic release concentrations at public access points. Safe stand-off distances for the chemical destruction personnel were calculated and observed.

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Mr. Benito Garcia

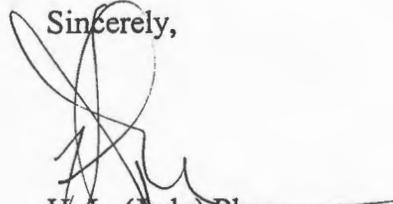
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Destruction of the substance and container was completed on November 5, 1997. An inspection of the surrounding area after the destruction process was completed revealed no unusual occurrences. The residue in the burn box has been sampled and is undergoing 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

LAAMEP:3JP-071

cc:

Dr. Robert S. Dinwiddie

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