Bolton — return to Tim

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84.

May 8, 1947

F. H. Jette

James P. Tribby

Fluid waste disposal at D.P. West

The status of fluid waste and effluent disposal at D.P. West area is as follows. There are three sources of plutonium contaminated fluid waste. The H. I. Group has conducted radioassay determinations for Pu content on samples collected from each source.

(1) Wash water from floors. This waste water is collected by the floor drains which connect with the D.P. chemical sewer and gravel seepage pit. Radioassay results of test samples taken from this source show an average of 10⁴ d/m/Pu/Liter of fluid or approximately 0.07 micrograms Pu per liter. The volume of solution is estimated at approximately 400 liters per day. This is equivalent to about 28 micrograms Pu per day and is eventually delivered to Los Alamos Canyon, north side of D.P. West, after passing through the gravel pit. Twelve radioassay tests have been run on samples taken from this source of contaminated effluent.

(2) Water aspiration - Water used to remove excess HF from hydrofluorination process, Room 413. This source of contaminated effluent has been assayed as containing 26,000 d/m/Pu/liter of fluid or approximately 0.1⁸ micrograms Pu per liter. The volume of waste fluid is estimated to run as high as 4,000 liters per day indicating a daily loss of 0.72 milligrams plutonium. This waste water is emptied into a gravel seepage pit at the south side of D.P. West and eventually the water is delivered into Los Alamos Canyon. The efficiency of the gravel seepage pit is not known but the degree of contamination existing at any point of Los Alamos Canyon is not indicative that this amount of Pu is emptying into it.

(3) Bomb electrolytic decontamination solution. Approximately 45 liters of electrolytic solution (ethylene glycol and H_3PO_3) are emptied each day into a drain from the bomb cleaning room 322 and into a gravel seepage pit 15 feet outside the door. Several assays were done on samples from this source which showed an average of 6×10^6 d/m/Pu per liter of fluid. This is about 43 micrograms Pu per liter or about 1.9 mg. per day. The efficiency of the gravel seepage pit is not known. Mr. Pittman has assured us that recovery of this solution is not practical.

In general the above indicates that the contamination problem due to fluid wastes from the D.P. area is serious. Efforts should be made to connect the above effluent sources to a dependable and efficient fluid disposal system as soon as possible in order to prevent eventual gross contamination of the area between the project and the Rio Grande River.

Best Available Copy

cc: Ron Clark
Dean Meyer
File

Received by ER-RPF
JAN 02 1991
NSZM

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Room #322 is in the NE corner of the south bay behind Building #2 #3. Where is the pit?

Question: What Hydrofluoric refining to building #275 or 283 structure location plan. However, in dry soup it is "sanitary" manhole.

May 8, 1947

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(1) Wash water from floors. This waste water is collected by the floor drains which connect with the D.P. chemical sewer and gravel seepage pit. Radioassay results of test samples taken from this source show an average of 104 d/m/Pu/Liter of fluid or approximately 0.07 micrograms Pu per liter. The volume of solution is estimated at approximately 400 liters per day. This is equivalent to about 28 micrograms of Pu per day and is eventually delivered to Los Alamos Canyon, north side of D.P. West, after passing through the gravel pit. Twelve radioassay tests have been run on samples taken from this source of contaminated effluent.

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James F. Tribby

cc: Ken Clark
Dean Meyer
File

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