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Environmental Protection Division
Water Quality & RCRA Group (ENV-RCRA)
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Date: July 16, 2008
Refer To: ENV-RCRA-08-146

Mr. Art Vollmer
New Mexico Environment Department
Compliance & Technical Assistance Program
Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303



Dear Mr. Vollmer:

SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF SUSPECT REACTIVE CHEMICAL AT TA-21, LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

The purpose of this letter is to report the activities associated with the Emergency Authorization granted by NMED-HWB on July 14, 2008 to treat a suspected reactive chemical discovered at TA-21. The Emergency Authorization was granted via phone conversations and e-mail between Anna Maestas of your staff and John Tymkowych of my staff.

The chemical for which the authorization was granted consisted of a 250 ml amber bottle, which was discovered during inspection of sampling locations at approximately 10:45 on 7/14/08. The area had been affected by a recent discharge of water from a fire hydrant in the TA-21 complex and the bottle was found exposed on the canyon slope. The bottle was approximately 3/4 full of a yellowish powder, which the LANL HAZ-MAT Team was able to determine through field screening to be picric acid. The cap on the bottle was found partially off and the contents were damp, therefore the HAZ-MAT Team determined that the bottle could be moved safely enough to be placed in a container with water to rehydrate the compound.

The suspect picric acid was treated by rehydration per the procedure described above at its point of discovery. Soils under the bottle exhibiting a yellow stain were also treated in the same manner and both were removed to a satellite accumulation area where they will remain until they are sampled and characterized for ultimate disposal. These events were accomplished by the LANL HAZMAT Team by approximately 5:00 p.m. the same day. All safety protocols were emplaced and safe standoff distances determined and observed by emergency personnel.



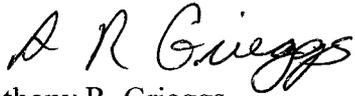
Mr. Art Vollmer
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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 667-0666.

Sincerely,



Anthony R. Grieggs
Group Leader
Water Quality & RCRA Group (ENV-RCRA)

ARG:JT/lm

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IRM-RMMSO, A150