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D. P. MacMillan, Group Leader W-3

12 December 1951

J. E. Dougherty, W-3

Site Contamination at TA-33, Area 6

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LAB-W-3-156

Despite precautions taken to catch 105 mm projectiles carrying hot Squab assemblies, it appears likely that some Po leakage will always be present. It is expected that with continued firing, the general level of contamination will continue to increase, as well as spread to greater distances from the firing point. Therefore, your concurrence with certain safety procedures is requested.

1. In the future, components for Squab shots of a more or less programmatic character will be stored until a number of shots (of the order of five) are ready for immediate firing. It is expected that this procedure will reduce the time required to handle ordnance and counting equipment at the firing point and therefore reduce personnel exposure.

2. All personnel working in the contaminated area will wear protective clothing, i.e., gloves, hats, coveralls, boots and respirators.

3. A wooden structure, at one time part of the trailer setup in Area 6, is being fitted out and weatherproofed by Button personnel to serve as a change room and contaminated storage room. It is located by the access road to the firing point and will provide storage for protective clothing, contaminated tools, and equipment. It is expected that this structure will eventually become contaminated but that it will prevent contamination of the control room and other semi-permanent buildings in Area 6.

4. At present, contaminated catchers are wrapped in plastic bags and carried to HP area #2 immediately after firing for burial. Transportation is provided by the C-2 wrecker and it is intended that this procedure be continued, at the same time recognizing the possibility of contamination of the running gear of the wrecker and the possibility of spreading some contamination via the roads.

5. H-1 monitoring personnel are present during firing and during the periods when labor crews are in the area for cleaning, reconstruction of berms, etc. W-3 personnel will work in the area at other times without monitoring. By copy of this memo, H-1 comments are invited on the following statements as understood by W-3 personnel.

5.1 Protective clothing such as can be decontaminated by laundering should be worn when handling objects with a surface alpha count due to Po contamination of greater than 500 cpm.

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4651

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Phil Long ISD-6
6-22-79

Per *S. M. Redman* 1-4-65 (Date)
(Person authorizing change in classification)

By *Elaine Stojinich* 1-7-65
(Signature of person making the change, and date)

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5.2 Objects with surface count up to several thousand cpm. can be handled without respirators if they have been washed to remove any free dust or dirt.

5.3 In areas of ground contamination greater than several thousand cpm. where there is a possibility of stirring up dust, respirators should be worn.

In addition, H-1 is requested to mark out the area in the immediate vicinity of the gun within which respirators are necessary. It is understood that such rules are necessarily approximate but can serve as guides for W-3 personnel while setting up shots and working in the area. Establishment of a regular schedule for personnel checks, i.e. urine analysis, blood counts, etc. would be helpful if H-1 deems it necessary.

6. After each series of shots, some effort will be made to clean up local spots of a high degree of contamination. No effort will be made to clean the entire area. Tools, ordnance materiel and electronic equipment will be cleaned periodically to remove surface contamination in the form of dust or dirt. No effort will be made to remove surface contamination which cannot be washed off with detergent and water.

7. Button personnel will keep a time sheet on Lopez, the part-time laborer, showing the time actually spent working in the contaminated area. This will facilitate determination of the amount of hazard pay to which he is entitled.

8. In the past some of the gas counter tanks in use were contaminated. With good fortune this may now be prevented by a dust-proof enclosure surrounding the counter geometry. The contaminated tanks are pumped and refilled at building 3 when necessary, however, it is hoped that these tanks can be used in the underground chamber in the event of another pit shot. This would eliminate considerable handling and moving of contaminated equipment.

In addition to the procedures outlined above, it is recommended that a suitably marked fence be constructed around the contaminated area. This area at present includes the fill extending down into the canyon as well as some woodland east and southeast of the firing point. Signs have already been placed around the area but a fence would be more adequate.

WEC:gm

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