

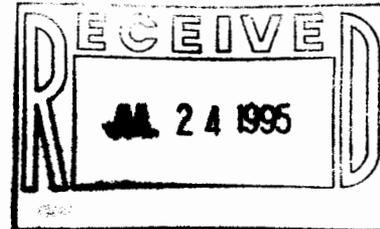


Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office
Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

JUL 18 1995

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Barbara Hoditschek, Program Manager
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
525 Camino de los Marquez
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502



Dear Ms. Hoditschek:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm destruction of an unknown material at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Approval to perform this activity was provided by your staff via telephone on June 26, 1995. This written report for the emergency chemical destruction at Technical Area (TA) 33, is submitted pursuant to the requirements of the LANL Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, Module II, *General Facility Conditions* paragraph II.K.2.c.

On June 26, personnel from the Hazardous Devices Team (HDT) determined that a small glass jar containing approximately 60 cc of an unidentifiable, gelatinous mass could not be sampled and was potentially a threat to human health and safety. The container was found approximately 100 feet west of Building 23 at TA-33, where it was exposed to the elements.

Because the jar was found in an area where high explosives and propellants historically have been used, and because the substance in the jar was unidentifiable, the HDT determined that it should be presumed to be reactive. Sampling could not be performed safely because of the friction hazard associated with opening the jar, which was covered by a rusted metal screw cap; such friction potentially could cause a detonation if, indeed, the substance was reactive.

The jar was moved approximately 200 feet, to a burn box placed on the road to South Site at TA-33 near Building 23. 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.

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JUL 18 1995

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2

Destruction of the substance and its container was completed at 9:30 a.m. on July 3, 1995. No explosion or other high order reaction was observed during the destruction process. Further, no residues which would normally remain from the combustion of cellulosic material were observed at the completion of this action. Additional inspection of the burn box and surrounding area after the destruction process was completed indicated no other unusual conditions could be observed and destruction of the material appeared to have been complete.

If you should have any questions, please call me at (505) 665-5042.

Sincerely,


H. E. "Jody" Plum
Office of Environment and
Projects

LAAMEP:9JP-003

cc:
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