Los Alamos
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

memorandum

TO: Charles Nylander, HSE-8/K490

DATE: October 15, 1986

THRU: G. R. Allen

MAIL STOP/TELEPHONE: E525/7-2383

FROM: J. Umphres

SYMBOL: CLS-7:86-282

SUBJECT: OIL SPILL, SOUTH SIDE OF TSL-125, TA-35

This is to inform you of the following incident, the cause, and the steps taken to prevent the reoccurrence.

On October 9, 1986, an oil spill occurred on the south side of Bldg. TSL-125, TA-35, at which time Roy Bond of HSE-8 was notified and arrangements were made to remove the oil from the roadway and from approximately 150 ft. of drainage in the canyon adjacent to the road.

The spill occurred when a holding tank located on the south side of Bldg. TSL-125 overflowed as oil was being transferred from a Marx generator in the building into the tank.

The holding tanks are equipped with liquid level sensors that are designed to indicate the level of liquid and provide an automatic shutoff of the pumping system when the tanks are full. This system had failed and did not indicate properly or shut the pump system off as designed. In addition to the holding tank overflow, the drain that is located within the spill containment area was obstructed, which prevented the oil from being diverted into a catchment basin provided for such emergencies.

The liquid level sensors have been repaired and checked for proper operation, and ENG-4 has been notified to clean out/repair the drain system to the catchment basin. In addition, all personnel that utilize the oil handling system hae been notifed of the potential problems and instructed to use caution when operating the system.

JU/mmb

cc: Brad Martin, CLS-DO/J563
B. Anderson, CLS-7
G. Allen, CLS-7
JU
file

5032