



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

APR 18 1996



CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief
 Hazardous and Radioactive Materials
 Bureau
 New Mexico Environment Department
 2044 Galisteo St., Building A
 P. O. Box 26110
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Subject: Written Notification of a Release from a Solid Waste Management Unit
 (SWMU)

The Department of Energy and the University of California for the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) are providing notification of a release from a SWMU in compliance with the requirements of Module VIII, Section H of LANL's RCRA operating permit. Telephone notification of the release was conducted by Ms. Pat Shanley (LANL) to Mr. Stu Dinwiddie of your staff and Ms. Barbara Driscoll of the Environmental Protection Agency on April 4, 1996.

The release occurred on April 3, 1996 at 10:30 a.m. at Technical Area (TA) 35 during work being conducted under a Decommissioning (formerly referred to as D&D) project at the Phase Separator Pit. A partially excavated tank and ancillary piping associated with the Phase Separator Pit are specifically known as Potential Release Site (PRS) 35-003(b). This PRS was used to support operations at the Phase Separator Pit when it was active.

The spill occurred when a worker stepped on a piece of 1/4-inch stainless steel tubing connected to the top of the tank. Two gallons of mixed waste liquid discharged from the tubing to the surrounding soil. The area was evacuated. After appropriate health and safety procedures were taken, the contaminated soil was removed and shoveled into a 55-gallon container. Soil was removed until no visible contamination was present and no radiological activity was detected. Prior to moving the container from the spill area to a 90-day storage area, it was swiped to ensure there was no exterior radiological contamination on the container. LANL believes the spill has been completely remediated and this will be confirmed when sampling is conducted after the decommissioning activities are complete. LANL does not believe the release presents a threat to human health, safety, or the environment.

FILE: H300A, LANL FU-4/1129/TA-35-003(b)
 COMP: LANL, 4/18/96, 4/19/96, H300A, DUF, R.E., 11-000

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The waste within the tank was previously sampled and found to have toxic chromium concentrations (>5mg/l, TCLP) and strontium 90. Therefore, the waste is being managed as a RCRA mixed waste.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please call Joe Mose of my staff at (505) 667-5808.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Vozella
Assistant Area Manager
Office of Environment
and Projects

LAAMEP:2JV-050

cc:

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