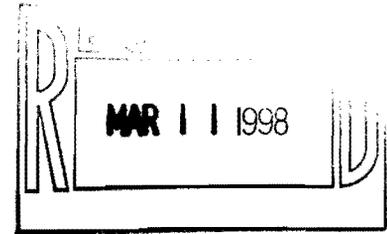




Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

*Barb -
my reading file
Benito*

MAR 11 1998



VIA HAND DELIVERY

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

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Subject: Emergency Chemical Destruction at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL),
TA-35-458

The purpose of this letter is to provide a written report notifying you of the emergency chemical destruction of two containers of potentially unstable chemicals. This activity occurred after Alice Barr of LANL's Hazardous and Solid Waste Group (ESH-19) received approval from Mr. Steve Zappe of your staff via telephone on March 5, 1998.

On March 5, 1998, LANL's Emergency Management and Response Group (EM&R) was called to evaluate the potential reactivity of two chemicals to determine if they could be transported safely for disposal following concern expressed by waste management personnel. These bottles were being stored in a hazardous waste <90 day storage area at TA-35-458 and contained approximately 100 grams each of benzoyl peroxide and 3-chloroperoxybenzoic acid. It was determined that these chemicals were potentially unstable and should be placed in LANL's burn box for destruction.

Materials Science and Technology Facility Team (MST-FAC) personnel prepared a Special Work Permit (SWP) for the destruction of these chemicals. Organizations that contributed to and approved the SWP included: Hazardous Devices Team (HDT), EM&R, Hazardous Materials Response Team, and ESH-19. LANL's Air Quality Group determined any potential impacts associated with the destruction activities.

On March 5, 1998, the bottles were removed from Building 458 and placed in the burn box prepared by the HDT at TA-35. Safe stand-off distances for the chemical destruction personnel were calculated and observed. Destruction of the chemicals occurred at



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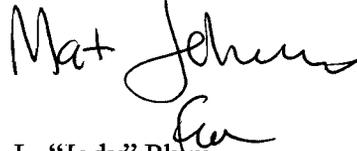
Benito Garcia

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approximately 4:30 p.m. on the same day and no unusual occurrences were noted. The residue remaining in the burn box was sampled and submitted for analysis.

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

Sincerely,



H. L. "Jody" Plum
Office of Environment

LAAME:6JP-051

cc:

Robert S. Dinwiddie, Ph.D
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo St., Bldg. A
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Steve Zappe
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo St., Bldg. A
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Alice Barr, ESH-19, LANL, MS-K498
ESH-19 (98046.AB), LANL, MS-K490