Los Alamos National Laboratory

Environment, Safety And Health Division (ESH-19)
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Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
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Date: September 1, 2000
Refer to: ESH-19-00:079

HAND DELIVERED

Mr. John Kieling
RCRA Permits Program
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2004 Galisteo St., Building A
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Kieling:

Subject: Chemical Destruction at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)

The purpose of this letter is to provide a written report notifying you of the destruction of two containers of potentially unstable chemicals. Approval to perform these activities was provided by you via telephone on August 30, 2000.

Material Science and Technology Division's Environment, Safety, Health and Facilities personnel conducting an evaluation of chemical storage areas identified two containers of nitrocellulose that were potentially shock sensitive. The two bottles contained approximately 100 grams and 25 grams respectively and were located at TA-35-213. It was determined by UC's Emergency Management and Response Group that these chemicals should be placed in LANL's burn box for destruction.

The material was moved from TA-35 to TA-49 and destroyed on August 30th by the Hazardous Devices Team. Air modeling calculations performed by Environment, Safety, and Health, Group 17 personnel determined that no significant emissions would result with respect to air quality requirements. Safe standoff distances were determined and observed by emergency personnel. An inspection of the surrounding area conducted after the destruction process revealed no unusual occurrences. Any residue remaining from the event was sampled, submitted for analysis, and will be characterized and managed appropriately.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (505) 667-0820.

Sincerely,

for Alice Barr

Alice Barr
Hazardous and Solid Waste

AB/vh

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