

TA39

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



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PUBLIC NOTICE 07-13

**NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
HAZARDOUS WASTE BUREAU
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505
JULY 25, 2007**

**EMERGENCY PERMIT FOR
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
EPA ID NO. NM0890010515**

On July 23, 2007, the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) informed the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) that it had an emergency involving unstable hazardous waste and requested that the NMED issue an emergency permit to treat the waste by detonation. LANL emergency response personnel had determined that the unstable waste posed an imminent and significant health and safety risk and was unsafe to transport on or across civilian motorways.

The unstable waste, consisting of five bottles of Collodion (60% to 70% diethyl ether, ethyl alcohol and nitrocellulose), was found during a clean-out of a work space in Building 39-2 at TA-39. The waste, which forms unstable peroxides over time, were determined to pose a health risk based on the physical appearance and age of the containers. The LANL emergency response team detonated the waste at the TA-39 hazardous waste open burn/open detonation facility at approximately 5:30 p.m. on July 23, 2007 and implemented all necessary safety precautions.

Based on all information provided and after considering the inherent dangers associated with handling the unstable materials, NMED approved an emergency permit for LANL to destroy the above noted items pursuant to 20.4.1.900 NMAC, incorporating 40 CFR 270.61. LANL must also properly dispose of any hazardous residues that remain after the destruction of the waste.

For additional information, please contact:

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