

RED [blacked out] LANL TAG 48/98



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

JUN 03 1998



VIA HAND DELIVERY

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, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Subject: Emergency Chemical Destruction at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) from
Technical Area 48 (TA-48)

The purpose of this letter is to provide a written report notifying you of the emergency chemical destruction of one container of potentially unstable chemical. Approval to perform this activity was provided to me by Mr. John Kieling of your staff by telephone on Wednesday, May 27, 1998.

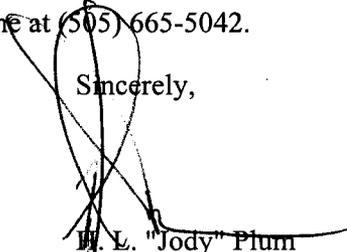
During chemical laboratory operations at TA-48, Room 414, personnel found a 1-liter can of ethyl ether that had exceeded its shelf life. Based upon the condition of the can (corroded with apparent crystal growth on the exterior neck), it was determined that the item was a potential threat to human health and safety. The Emergency Management and Response Group, the Hazardous Devices Team (HDT), and Hazardous Material Response Team were contacted to evaluate and discuss the disposal of the chemical. It was determined that an emergency chemical destruction was required.

Air modeling calculations performed by the Environmental, Safety and Health, Group 17 personnel determined that the planned release of the material generated during the operation would not result in significant toxic release concentrations at public access points. Safe stand-off distances for the chemical destruction personnel were calculated and observed.

The container was moved to TA-49 by the HDT. Destruction of the substance and container was completed on May 27, 1998. An inspection of the surrounding area after the destruction process was completed revealed no unusual occurrences. The residue in the burn box has been sampled and is undergoing analysis. When analysis is complete, the residue will be characterized and managed accordingly.

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

Sincerely,


J. L. "Jody" Plum
Office of Environment

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