



TA-49

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

SEP 27 1994

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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief  
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
525 Camino de los Marquez, Suite 4  
P. O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Mr. Garcia:

This written report for the emergency chemical destruction at Technical Area (TA) 49, on September 22, 1994, is submitted pursuant to the requirements of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, Module II, *General Facility Conditions*, paragraph II.K.2.c.

On September 22, 1994, personnel from the Isotope & Nuclear Chemistry Group (INC) determined that approximately three quarts of ethyl ether contained in three metal cans posed a threat to personnel safety. The containers, one 2-quart can and two 1-quart cans, were stored at TA-53 in the basement of Building MP-1. Representatives of the Emergency Management Group (EM) were contacted at 10:45 a.m. to provide guidance as to the proper handling procedure for the chemical.

At a meeting at TA-53, EM and Hazardous Devices Team (HDT) personnel observed that the 2-quart metal can was visibly bulging. The presence of the bulging can and the advanced age of all the chemical (approximately four years), resulted in a determination that none of the cans could safely be handled by normal disposal procedures due to the possibility of friction or shock initiating explosion. The containers were transported via the HDT bomb trailer under emergency conditions to TA-49. Air modeling calculations, performed by EM personnel determined that the planned release of the compound by burning would not result in significant toxic gas concentrations at public access points. Safe stand-off distances for the chemical destruction personnel were calculated.

Destruction of the chemical and containers was completed at 2:45 p.m. on September 22, 1994. The destruction process was performed by HDT in a burn box at TA-49, and no unusual occurrences were observed. An inspection of the burn box and surrounding area after the destruction process was completed indicated no chemical residue remained. It was determined by reference to Table 302.4 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 302, that the amount of chemical involved did not necessitate reporting to the National Response Center.

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Benito Garcia

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If you should have any questions, please call me at (505) 665-5027, or  
Jon Mack at (505) 665-5026.

Sincerely,



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

LAAMEP:9JM-098

cc:

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MS-K498

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HSWS File (94-0332-1),  
LANL, MS-K498