

TA49

Stu - St John -



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



APR 05 1999

*Handcarried*

~~CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED~~

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: Approved Emergency Chemical Destruction at TA-49

The purpose of this letter is to provide a written report notifying you of the emergency destruction of a compressed gas cylinder at Technical Area (TA) 49, on Thursday, April 1, 1999. Approval to perform this activity was provided by Kim Hill of your staff to Alice Barr of Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) Hazardous and Solid Waste Group (ESH-19), via telephone on April 1, 1999.

During closure operations at TA-16, Material Disposal Area P (MDA-P), a small compressed gas cylinder was identified that could not be safely handled or sampled due to its compromised integrity. It was consequently considered a potential threat to human health and safety by LANL's Emergency Management and Response Group (EM&R). The Hazardous Devices Team (HDT) and the Hazardous Materials Response Team (HAZMAT) were contacted to assist in an emergency destruction.

Environmental Restoration Project personnel assigned to the MDA-P Closure Project prepared a Special Work Permit (SWP) for the destruction of the cylinder. Organizations that contributed to and approved the SWP included: HDT, EM&R, HAZMAT, TA-16 Facility Manager, the Air Quality Group (ESH-17), and ESH-19.

After determining that the cylinder was free of radioactive or High Explosives contamination, it was moved to TA-49 by the HDT. Air modeling calculations performed by ESH-17 determined that the material that would be generated during the planned operation would not result in a release of toxic gas concentrations at public access points. Safe stand-off distances for the personnel responsible for the chemical destruction were calculated and observed.

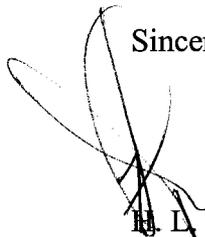


APR 05 1999

Destruction of the container and its contents was completed at approximately 5:10 p.m. on April 1, 1999. An inspection of the surrounding area after the destruction process was completed revealed no unusual occurrences. No amount of residue sufficient to sample remained in the cylinder due to the pyrolytic effect of the shaped charge used to open the cylinder and destroy the gaseous contents.

If you should have any questions, please contact me at (505) 667-5042.

Sincerely,



H. L. "Jody" Plum  
Office of Environment

LAAME:6JP-129

cc:

Kim Hill

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

John Kieling

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

Lee Winn

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