

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Distribution

DATE: May 22, 1964

FROM : James G. Stearns, Safety Engineer *J. Stearns*

SUBJECT: CLOSING OUT OF THE HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL PIT, AREA C, PAJARITO AND PECOS ROAD INTERSECTION

SYMBOL : Safety Office, H-3

REFERENCE: Memo of February 12, 1964, Stearns to ENG-3, subject: "Future Land Use Control - Chemical Disposal Area, Pajarito Road and Ten-Site Road Intersection".

The pit, currently used for hazardous chemical disposal, is to be back filled as soon as the new disposal pit (Area L of Mesita del Buey) is ready for use.

A brief review of the use of this pit shows that a variety of chemicals, pyrophoric metals, hydrides and powders, sealed vessels containing sodium-potassium alloy or compressed gases, and equipment not suitable for salvage, public dump or the contaminated dump have been placed in the pit. No high explosives have ever been put in this pit. Normal uranium powders and hydrides have been disposed of in this pit. Inadvertently some plutonium contaminated objects were placed in the pit but have long since been covered. Because of the uranium disposal it should be assumed that the pit is mildly alpha contaminated.

Upon notification that the new disposal area is ready for use the following procedure will be in effect:

1. James G. Stearns and/or Joseph M. Dalton, H-3, will be present during all disposal area activities.
2. The above will see that all combustibles are burned; they will arrange for a Los Alamos Fire Department pumper to be present.
3. The area will be cleaned and all hold items will be placed in the dump.
4. Stearns and/or Dalton will place several hundred cylinders containing various gases and all plumbing containing sodium-potassium in the pit in such a manner that they are evenly distributed throughout the length of the pit.
5. ENG-4 will issue a job order for the services of an operator and bulldozer. The dozer will back fill from a mound of dirt reserved for this purpose. The dozer will build up a layer of dirt in the pit no less than two feet before placing the weight of the dozer on



8284

May 22, 1964

the contents of the pit. The periodic traversing of the pit by the dozer should provide adequate compacting. We believe that the dozer operator will not be required to wear protective clothing for contamination reasons.

6. Following back-fill the entire area should be leveled.
7. Disconnect the water and remove the telephone. *We follow up & show this on our dig*
8. Change lock on Pecos Road entry to one controlled by Engineering or remove gates and fence the entry. *I don't wish to have Eng. lock on it.*
9. At no time will anyone enter the pit until the pit has been covered with at least two feet of dirt.

The keys to the existing lock on the gate will be called in and returned to CMB-AP.

JGS:jn

cc: ENG-DO
ENG-3
ENG-4
SP-DO
H-DO
H-1
H-5
CMB-AP