

To: Margarete Ann  
From: John lers  
Subject: HISTORY OF AREA C

4/7/74

Comments-----

Page 1, last Par.-- Would suggest "no conflicts" with my ref. When we get LA Notebooks #1743, 2587, 3478, 4644 & 6030 back a double-check should help tie down dates of first deliveries to Area C.

I might point out that perhaps there are references to waste disposals in the "D" Bldg. Section's weekly and monthly reports (CMR-12 Group), later on, CMR Bldg. Section weekly, monthly and annual reports (H-1 Group). My first reports to Dean on waste disposal seem to be more centered on volumes, costs, etc., than on where and when we were putting the stuff..

page 2, first par.

Again, chronological useage of each pit could probably be more accurate than the info I gave Hanson. As inferred in my report to him, we were using more than one pit at a time (still current practice) and is no doubt confusing... As to the "conflict" with references, I should have asked to see them as perhaps then we could clear up some of them....

last  $\frac{1}{2}$  of page 2

The chemical pit was located approx. due west of where the met. tower is now located. Prior to digging the pit, it was SOP to dispose of chemicals in the solid radioactive waste pits.

last par., page 2 and page 3 and top of page 4---

A review of the chronological listing of useage of disposal shafts at Area C might help clear up the problem (see attached listing). It is planned to backfill shaft #89 in April. This would then "formally" close out Area C.. As you may recall, this shaft has been used these many years as a "storage" shaft for some <sup>235</sup>U contaminated pipe and it was only recently I received an OK to go ahead and fill the shaft..

Page 5---Type of waste----

I suspect a very thorough review of all possible sources of information might change the total amounts of activity reported to be in pits and shafts at Area C! Line 5 indicates Pit #6 got "all of the debris from Bayo Canyon Site"...we did get material from there, but the "clean up" of Bayo Site went into pit #2, Area G !

Page 6--top of page---

Reference to the LA Notebooks used for logging material placed in shafts would probably show that material came from areas other (in addition to) than those you've listed.... Here, also, suggest the listing I've made up should clear up the mystery of shaft useage!

Page 7--bottom of page---

Reference to "20 new shafts"---see my attached listing.. 10 of these shafts were 2' X 20' deep and 10 were 12" X 20 deep, cement lined (#98 to #107).



Page 9--bottom of page---

It would seem that review of LA Notebooks used for this time period could help resolve "discrepancies" between reference #8 and 32(which I haven't read)---. Certainly, Ba-La type wastes were buried in disposal shafts during this time period! Also, H-7 used 55 gal. drums in which wastes were mixed with cement paste--so unless I see the references I can't help much!

Page 10--reference to steel containers---

These were placed into pit #1, Area C...

"Mode of Disposal"----

Pits #1,2,3&4 are located in the SOUTHEAST portion of Area C! The width quoted seems to be a bit wide---more like 25' would be correct.. No question about it---pit #5 DID receive "hazardous" chemicals---. Also, same for pit #6, except that when H-3 got their own pit they used it for chemical disposals....

Reference "Dean Meyer's recollection" as to whether or not radioactive waste got mixed with chemical material----there was one such "incident" in which James Stearns was involved in (he was formerly a Safety Engineer). It seems he and some CMB-11 personnel were making a "disposal" in the chemical pit and there was some "dusting" of radioactive material during the operation..am not too sure where documentation would be, but suggest H-1 reports should have it as Stearn's sweater was contaminated and he in turn contaminated a seat in the Adm. Bldg. Auditorium as well as other places he went that afternoon!

Page 14--last par.

Certainly,---I was referring to pit useage...one pit..!

Page 15, bottom of page---

The reason for shift in location of disposal shafts was due to access to shafts---. It was not possible to drive along the border between pits #4 and 5 any further than the extent of the drilled shafts---.

Page 16---reference to "cast" should be CASK

Page 17-- ref--plugging shafts with cement---we DID get a cement mixer and READYMIX cement and plugged shafts ourselves! We still have this capability--cement mixer, READYMIX cement plus MG set for electricity--all one needs is sweat and water!

Page 18---reference to signs along perimeter fence---

These signs are to be replaced very soon---Order is in for new signs.. These signs fade rapidly in this area. Signs are located about every fifty feet on the fence. New signs are to conform with current OSHA regulations--.

Page 19--ref: "approval of Area C by USGS"-----

I would assume that the "Koopman(sp?) report is what Dean had in mind as to "approval by USGS".... Certainly, it is the first such "approval" in writing that I know of concerning "approval" of disposal Sites for radioactive material...

I would heartily agree that the "1963 recommendations be carried out in the near future on Area C...

LA # 11363 page 112-113

#68-87 (2' x 20' deep) 1<sup>st</sup> deliv. on 10/8/62

LA # 12442, page 13

New holes drilled during week of 1/6/64 to 1/10/64

10 shafts #88-97 north of shafts #87 (2' x 20')

10 " west of roadway (#98-107) 12" diam., cement lined,  
20' deep.