

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Margaret A. Rogers, H-12

DATE: January 23, 1979

FROM : John Enders, H-12 Consultant *JE*

SUBJECT : REPORT ON PLUTONIUM CONTAMINATION IN THE WASTE CHEMICAL DISPOSAL PIT IN
AREA C

SYMBOL : H12-79-42

MAIL STOP: 490

As per your request, the following information is offered concerning an incident at the Waste Chemical Disposal Pit in Area C.

The incident occurred during the later part of 1958 or early 1959 and involved disposal of waste chemicals from CMB-11 Group at DP West.

James Stearns, CMB Safety Officer and CMB-11 personnel carried out the disposal. Upon return to DP West, one of the CMB-11 people found himself to be contaminated. Stearns was later checked and was also contaminated. He had left Area C to attend the 10 year pin ceremony, held in the LASL Auditorium as Roy Reider, H-3 Group Leader (now retired) was to receive his 10 yr pin. The auditorium seat that Stearns occupied was highly contaminated. Also, Stearn's sweater was contaminated.

From the above events, it is certain that the waste chemicals were contaminated with plutonium, and that the Chemical Disposal Pit at Area C should be considered to contain an unknown (probably trace) quantity of plutonium.

JE:tj



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