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**Environmental Protection & Compliance Division (EPC-DO)**  
**Environmental Compliance Programs (EPC-CP)**  
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Date: JUN 16 2016  
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LA-UR: 16-24122  
Locates Action No.: N/A



Mr. John E. Kieling  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Kieling:

**Subject: Destruction of Unstable Containers at TA-53, Los Alamos National Laboratory**

On June 10, 2016, Los Alamos National Security (LANS) requested approval to treat unstable chemical containers at Technical Area (TA) 53 by emergency detonation. At approximately 2:30 pm, on June 10, 2016 the New Mexico Environment Department Hazardous Waste Bureau (NMED-HWB) orally granted Emergency Authorization for treatment by detonation. On June 14, 2016 the NMED-HWB provided follow-up written authorization for the treatment, *Emergency Permit # 16-004*.

During an assessment on June 10, 2016, the following containers were identified in an outdoor flammable cabinet at TA-53:

- two corroded cylinders of flammable liquid; and
- one canister marked "flammable gas" containing a small glass bottle with unknown gas and evidence of a compromised seal (cork).

Emergency Response personnel determined the containers were unstable and that the safest response was on-site emergency treatment in a total-containment vessel. Treatment by contained detonation was conducted at TA-53 in accordance with 40 CFR 270.1(c)(3). The destruction was completed on June 10,



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2016 at 4:35 pm, in a controlled and safe manner. No residue or other hazardous materials remained after treatment.

Please contact Mark P. Haagenstad of my staff at (505) 665-2014 if you require additional information or have questions.

Sincerely,



Anthony R. Grieggs  
Group Leader  
Environmental Compliance Programs (EPC-CP)  
Los Alamos National Security, LLC

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