

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : L. J. 1757

DATE: June 23, 1965

FROM : B. P. Williams

SUBJECT: REPORT OF MEETING RE: POLICY REGARDING DESIGN OF FUTURE BURIAL PITS

SYMBOL : ENG-3

~~CA Reynolds~~  
~~J. C. Reynolds~~  
~~S. E. Russo~~

On the afternoon of June 22, 1965, a meeting was held in the ENG-3 Group office for the purpose of discussing matters related to the construction of future materials disposal area pits on Mesita del Buey. Those attending were Dr. C. V. Theis, F. C. Koopman and W. D. Purtymun, USGS, D. D. Meyer, H-1, Wm. Kennedy, H-6, C. W. Christenson, H-7, S. E. Russo and B. P. Williams, ENG-3.

By way of introduction to the problems at hand, it was pointed out that much of the land on Mesita del Buey was rolling and that it was difficult to find areas where 100' x 600' pits could be located which would be level enough to permit excavation of a uniform cut without having a low point in some portion of the pit floor where water could collect. The USGS representatives indicated they could see no objection to some water collecting at one point in a pit and were inclined to think that the absorption characteristics of the tuff, along with the waste materials and backfill cover, would distribute the water falling, or running, into the pit in such a manner that moisture would present no problem. The following discussions developed the thought that pits could be excavated parallel to the slope

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contours and could be of varying widths, to more completely utilize the land set aside for waste burial. The principle concern expressed by the USGS representatives was that the contaminated wastes be contained within the undisturbed tuff at the sides of the pits and that compacted backfill material, at least two feet thick, conform to the natural slope surfaces over the pits. It was also suggested that in some instances there might be a need to cut intercepting drainage ditches across the slopes above the pits to prevent concentrations of water which could possibly cause gullying in the pit backfill cover.

A field trip was made to Area "G", Mesita del Buey, and lower Pajarito Canyon by the geologists and B. P. Williams to acquaint the USGS men with the nature of the terrain.

A letter setting out recommendations and suggestions for future pit design will be forthcoming from the USGS offices in Albuquerque.