

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Distribution

DATE: January 20, 1976

FROM : John Warren, H-7 *JLW*

SUBJECT : DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES OILS

SYMBOL : H7-SW-681

1531  
7A-54

Radioactive contaminated waste oil that has required disposal by burial has until now, been disposed of into 1.8 m diameter by 18 m deep shafts. This practice was initiated many years ago as a result of the potential fire hazard associated with mixing drums of contaminated oil with uncovered combustible waste. At that time the combustible waste was not routinely covered on the day of delivery, and the waste oil was not required to be sorbed prior to disposal as is presently required.

Since the early 1970's routine practice at Area G has been to cover all combustible waste on the day of delivery to Area G. Consequently, it is felt that the potential fire hazard at the Area is extremely low. Since the prevention of fire is radioactive waste has been so reduced by the current operational practice, shafts are no longer considered necessary for segregated disposal of radioactive waste oil. The shaft disposal operation, in addition, is unnecessarily expensive both in construction and in use.

Waste oil contaminated with TRU-radionuclides in amounts >10 nCi/g will continue to be stored retrievably. Waste oil contaminated with tritium will continue to be disposed of with the appropriate packaging into the tritium waste disposal shaft. All other waste oil will, with completion of the filling of the current shaft #60, be disposed of in the appropriate TRU- or U- waste disposal pit.

JLW:kr

Distribution:

- T. Keenan, H-7, MS-518
- M. A. Rogers, H-8, MS-737
- M. Wheeler, H-8, MS-737
- L. Johnson, H-8, MS-490
- J. Enders, H-7, MS-737
- File

