

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Distribution

DATE: 15 March 1977

FROM : J. L. Warren, H-7



SUBJECT : PROPOSED CHANGE IN WASTE BURIAL PIT USAGE AT AREA G

SYMBOL : H-7A-77-60

MAIL STOP: 517

Since about 1972, different pits have been used at Area G for disposal of TRU wastes and U+FP/IA wastes. Due to problems with increasing Zia costs, dust control, more efficient area planning, and in particular, with compactor operations, we are now proposing that for buried waste we go back to using only one pit.

For baled waste, because of possible cross contamination in the compactor and "mixed" bales, all baled waste will have to be considered as "TRU-contaminated." The resultant elimination of this volume of non-TRU waste will greatly reduce the volume of waste requiring a separate pit. In CY1976 this volume with elimination of compactibles would be only about 500 to 600 m³. Such a small volume would result in keeping a pit for this waste open for many years. I, personally, feel that this is not something that we want from the standpoint of pit wall stability and keeping water out of the pits and waste.

Therefore, we are proposing that, once the present U+FP/IA waste pit (pit 13) is filled, we go back to using only one pit for all buried waste. I would like to have your comments on this proposal at this time so that appropriate plans can be made. Finally, even in the event that it is decided not to make this permanent change, it is quite possible that the use of only one pit may arise for a period of time at the end of this CY; this probably cannot be avoided. This situation will arise due to a large unplanned waste generation, the limited space available in Area G, and limited program (A-411) funding.

JLW:egs

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provide the analytical sensitivity required. That technique requires a much larger sample (more than 10 kg) than is available from the core. Thus, no direct determination is possible of the relative mobilities of ^{241}Am and ^{239}Pu . Inspection of the ratios of the two nuclides indicates that ^{241}Am appears more mobile, but much more data is required to confirm or refute this point.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

The outline for the Shallow-Land Disposal Section of the GEIS was finalized during the month. A three day visit with BPNL in Richland identified those areas where further LASL inputs are required. Work was begun on developing those inputs, and the writing of the final text was initiated. That work is presently targeted for completion by February 15.

The writing of replies to comments on NUREG 0116 was completed and forwarded to the NRC. Two days were spent in Bethesda, Maryland, with NRC staff developing an appendix to NUREG 0116 which will answer the majority of those comments.

Contact was made with F. Scott Keys from the Denver office of the USGS. LASL is designated as technical advisor to the ERDA sponsored USGS program to improve down-hole logging capabilities for monitoring waste disposal sites. Initial work at LASL will involve calibration of probes for measurement of specific radio-nuclides.

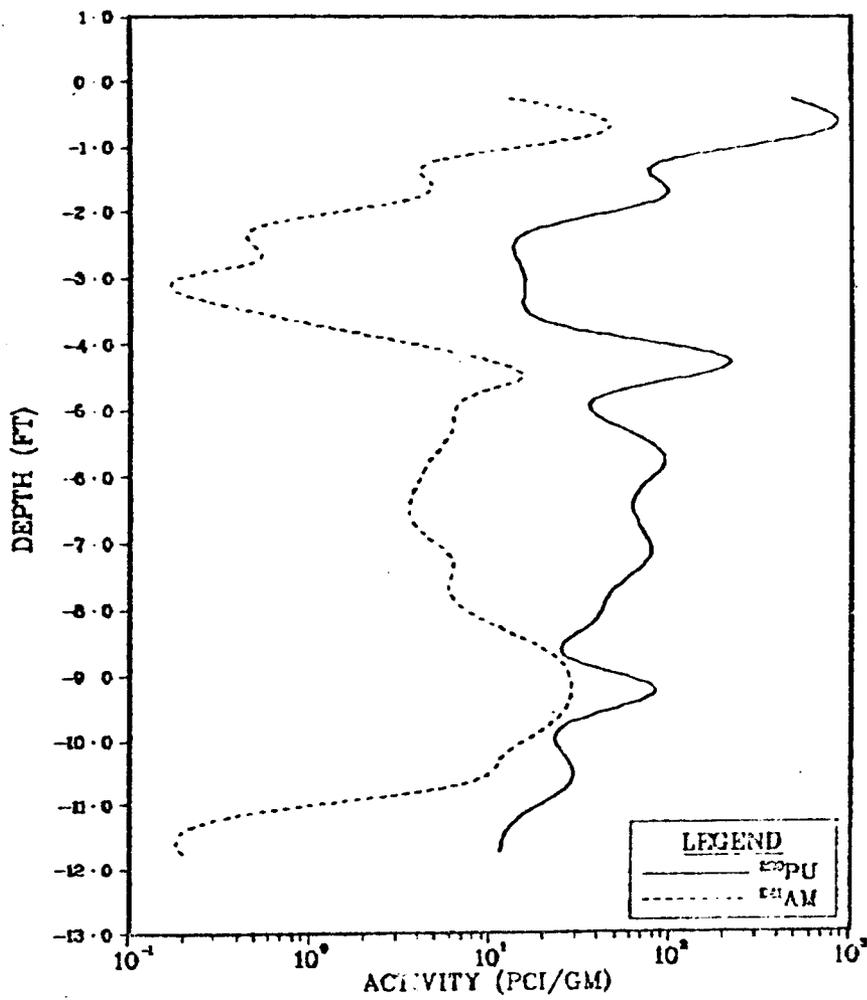


Fig. 3. Radionuclide Distribution
Beneath Absorption Bed No. 4, Area T,
TA-1.

February 1977

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