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Waste Management Division  
Waste Management Programs  
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Date: AUG 19 2013  
Refer to: WM-DO-13-0048



Mr. John E. Kieling  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6313

Dear Mr. Kieling:

**SUBJECT: DESTRUCTION OF UNSTABLE CONTAINER IDENTIFIED AT TECHNICAL AREA (TA) 59 BUILDING 1, LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY**

On August 13, 2013, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Waste Management Division Programs Group (WM-PROG) representative Mark Haagenstad contacted New Mexico Environment Department Hazardous Waste Bureau (NMED-HWB) representative Steve Pullen regarding the need to conduct emergency treatment (detonation) on an unstable container discovered in a non-operational lab at Technical Area (TA) 59 Building 1. NMED-HWB granted Emergency Authorization for detonation treatment of the unstable container on August 13, 2013. Destruction was successfully conducted at TA-49 within a Total Containment Vessel (TCV), in a safe manner, and in accordance with 20.4.1.900 NMAC, incorporating 40 CFR 270.1(c)(3) and 20.4.1.500 NMAC incorporating 40 CFR 264.1(g)(8)(ii).

On August 13, 2013, a LANL employee discovered a container wrapped in bubble wrap in a non-operational vent hood at TA-59-1. The container was approximately 3 inches in diameter and 3 inches in height. The employee un-wrapped the container and discovered that it was heavily oxidized. The employee placed the container on a table, evacuated the area, and contacted LANL Emergency Management and Response (EM&R). Upon arrival and further evaluation, EM&R personnel deemed the area and situation unsafe and evacuated the facility. EM&R personnel determined that the unstable hazardous waste container would need to be transported to TA-49 and treated through detonation in a TCV because the container posed an imminent and substantial health and safety risk.

On August 13, 2013, the waste was safely and effectively treated through contained detonation in a TCV at TA-49. All residual material remaining in the TCV was collected and is being properly managed in accordance with state and federal waste management requirements and Los Alamos National Laboratory Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (November 2010) Section C.3.1, Hazardous and Mixed Low-Level Waste Characterization.



Mr. John E. Kieling  
WM-DO-13-0048

LANL greatly appreciates the excellent support of NMED-HWB's Steve Pullen with regards to his support on approval of the emergency treatment permit. Please contact Mark Haagenstad at (505) 665-2014 if additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,



Jody A. Armijo  
Acting Group Leader  
Waste Management Division Programs (WM-PROG)

JA:MH/lm

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