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Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544



JUN 17 1997

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials
Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo St., Bldg. A
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



Dear Mr. Garcia:

Subject: Hazardous Waste - Emergency Action

The purpose of this letter is to provide the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) with a written description of an emergency action taken at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) on June 11, 1997, as required by Section II.K.2c of LANL's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit.

After investigation by LANL Environmental Management Solid Waste Operations (EM-SWO) and the Technical Area (TA) 59 Waste Coordinator, two chemical waste items were characterized as containing unstable or explosive characteristics and were subsequently managed as such. The two chemical waste items consisted of a one-liter, metal container of ether and two glass vials containing 1, 3, 5-trinitrobenzene with two grams of material in each vial.

Cornelius Amindyas of the Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau, NMED, was contacted by Hilary Noskin of LANL's ESH-19 Hazardous and Solid Waste Group around 1:00 p.m. on June 11, 1997. Ms. Noskin provided information requirements pursuant to Section II.K.2b of LANL's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit within 24 hours of the explosive determination of the two chemicals.

Under the direction of the Emergency Management and Response Group, the Hazardous Devices Team was called out to the scene to thermally treat the two chemical waste items in a burn-box outside of TA-59-1. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for "Emergency Destruction of Unstable Chemicals," were implemented with no unusual occurrences resulting from the burn-box thermal destruction process. LANL personnel in TA-59

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Mr. Benito Garcia

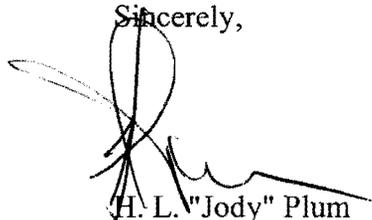
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Buildings 1, 96, and 97 were evacuated to ensure safety of LANL employees. No waste residues were generated from the thermal process.

If you should have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at (505) 665-5042.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. L. 'Jody' Plum". The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

H. L. "Jody" Plum

Office of Environment and Projects

LAAMEP:9JP-057

cc:

Mr. Stuart Dinwiddie

Hazardous and Radioactive Materials

Bureau

New Mexico Environment Department

2044 Galisteo Street, Building A

P. O. Box 26110

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505