

TA 59/98
LANL
RED



Department of Energy

Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Stu



MAY 28 1998

VIA HAND DELIVERY

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



Dear Mr. Garcia:

Subject: Emergency Explosive Destruction at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)
from Technical Area 59 (TA-59)

The purpose of this letter is to provide a written report notifying you of the emergency explosive destruction of a potentially unstable explosive. Approval to perform this activity was provided by Stu Dinwiddie of your staff via telephone on May 20, 1998, following a discussion with Alice Barr of LANL's Hazardous and Solid Waste Group.

During an inventory, personnel found an explosive, which appeared to be degraded. The operating personnel contacted the group leader and the facility manager. The facility manager contacted EM&R. EM&R contacted LANL's Hazardous Devices Team (HDT) to examine the explosive. The HDT found a potentially unstable explosive, Tri-Nitro-Toluene (TNT). It was determined that this item was potentially a threat to human health and safety since the TNT showed evidence of crystal formation within the container. The HDT determined that an emergency explosive destruction was the safest means to address the problem.

The material to be destroyed was moved from TA-59-115 after evacuating the immediate areas where the container was located. The container was placed into a "Frag Bag", a bag especially designed to contain small quantities of explosives, and safely transported to the TA-49 destruction/burn area by the HDT. Safe standoff distances for the explosive destruction personnel were calculated and observed.

All operations were conducted following HDT(s) Standard Operating Procedure for explosives. Destruction of the TNT was completed the evening of May 20, 1998. An inspection of the surrounding area after the destruction process was completed revealed no unusual occurrences.



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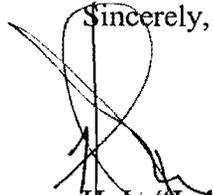
Benito Garcia

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If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 665-5042.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. L. Plum', written over a vertical line.

H. L. "Jody" Plum
Office of Environment

LAAME:6JP-068