Zappe, Steve, NMENV

From: Zappe, Steve, NMENV
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2008 5:21 PM
To: Goldstein, Jon, NMENV; Bearzi, James, NMENV; Leavitt, Marcy, NMENV
Cc: Vollmer, Art, NMENV; 'conniewalk@aol.com'; 'Stone.Nick@epamail.epa.gov'; Hall, Timothy, NMENV; Holmes, Steve, NMENV
Subject: RE: LANL Ships

Here are a few interesting tidbits connecting this story with the WIPP "gashed" container:

1. According to the WWIS, shipment from LANL resumed on July 30... note I used the singular term. There was only one shipment from LANL to WIPP before the gash was discovered and shipments were subsequently halted. The "gashed" container was on that shipment, LA080040, sent 7/30 (the same day EPA approved resumption of shipments from LANL) and received 7/31.

2. The "gashed" container, based on the picture, was LAS850391. It was emplaced on 8/3 (Sunday) in Panel 4, Room 3, Row 83, Column 5, on the top.

3. The "gashed" container was from our favorite LANL waste stream, LA-MIN03-NC.001, the dewatered sludge made famous for the 121 drums that were the subject of CO-07-43 (VE in lieu of RTR) and, more recently, the drum whose name will not be mentioned (subject of a future CO because it had an unresolved nonconformance for prohibited amounts of liquid). Fortunately, the "gashed" container didn't have liquid in it or it could have "gushed" like a stuck pig...

Steve

From: Goldstein, Jon, NMENV
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2008 3:17 PM
To: Zappe, Steve, NMENV; Bearzi, James, NMENV; Leavitt, Marcy, NMENV
Subject: LANL Ships

This is a few days old

LANL resumes shipments to WIPP

By Kyle Marksteiner
Current-Argus Staff Writer
Article Published: 07/31/2008 09:03:40 PM MDT

CARLSBAD — Shipments of transuranic waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant have resumed this week.

According to Casey Gadbury, National TRU Program director, the Department of Energy's Carlsbad field office received approval from the Environmental Protection Agency to resume shipments Wednesday morning. LANL made a shipment of transuranic waste to the underground repository near Carlsbad later that day.

In June, a drum of transuranic waste with an open non-conformance report was mistakenly shipped from Los Alamos to WIPP and emplaced in the underground repository near Carlsbad. The standard waste box holding the drum was returned to Los Alamos, but the incident sparked an investigation as to why the mistake happened and what could have prevented the error.

Shipments from other sites resumed, but the EPA initially didn't support the resumption of shipments from LANL, at least until the agency received more information on what corrective actions were in place. But the agency apparently saw what it needed during an inspection in Los Alamos Tuesday.

"Basically, they visited some areas where drums are stored and they interviewed some individuals at the site," Gadbury said. "They concurred with our conclusions and allowed us to resume shipments."

But the EPA still isn't allowing drums from some waste streams to be sent to WIPP until the agency can identify database changes specific to those streams.

"DOE needs to notify EPA when these changes have been implemented so that the agency can review them for adequacy," said Jonathan Edwards, acting director of the EPA's Radiation Protection Division. "In addition, EPA will further evaluate the segregation of TRU drums at CCP sites."

The EPA is also asking for a schedule of follow-up surveillances.

Some of the EPA's specific concerns seemed to relate to the drum tagging process. A follow-up inspection of the drum in question concluded that the tag was missing. Gadbury said a new method for attaching tags to drums was one of the corrective actions taken.

"In our corrective action process, there were some actions identified that need to be completed. Those will be verified when they are completed," Gadbury said.

Jon Goldstein
Central Characterization Project

Data Center / Tracking Systems Portal (Version 1.0)

Search Results:
ContainerID: las850391

Search Stats: SearchCount: RecordsReturned: 5 Started: Completed: 4:08:04 PM Results

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Current AK DATA for [LANL]:

(* - denotes results 24 hrs dated)

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Note: This search uses the Relationship Matrix established from current AK data. All search results must be verified.
1. CCP-PO-002, Rev 13, Section 3.2.7 states in part: "When a payload container does not meet the payload container filter requirements, an NCR is initiated."

Actual Condition:

1. Liner not vented. Reason for revision 1: To remove container S804844 not completed and add that container to NCR-LANL-2021-08 and Revise final disposition steps.

Instructions For Completion:

1. Return drum(s) to LANL for correction of nonconforming Actual Condition as identified in Block 7c. 2. After step 1 is complete, confirm correction with a new RTR examination.