

Zappe, Steve, NMENV



From: Zappe, Steve, NMENV
Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2008 11:28 AM
To: 'Don Hancock'
Cc: Bearzi, James, NMENV; Hall, Timothy, NMENV; Holmes, Steve, NMENV
Subject: RE: Punctured drum, lost sampling lines
Attachments: Panel 4 Room 3.xls

Don -

I was trying to guess the scenario by which the gash happened, so I downloaded to a spreadsheet all information on emplacement from Panel 4, Room 3, Row 79 and forward (attached). I color coded the four days of emplacement, then sorted by row, column, and height. Here's what it tells me:

Waste was emplaced up to row 81, and then row 82 is missing. This probably means it is a row of nothing but MgO stacked on BRTs (Big Red Things, the structures for holding multiple sacks of MgO). Then Row 83 appears, with the gashed drum LAS850391 placed on the top of column 5. There's only one container in row 85, which leads me to believe they put another set of BRTs in row 84.

I believe the gash occurred in one of two possible ways:

- o Emplacement of the 7-pack with LAS850391 struck one of the BRTs behind it in Row 82, or
- o Positioning one of the BRTs in Row 84 struck drum LAS850391, or
- o Emplacing the other 7-pack on the floor in Row 85, Column 5 bumped a BRT in Row 84 into drum LAS850391.

I'm guessing the second. It's hard to tell from the pictures, but I would expect they would have filled the BRTs with MgO before emplacing waste in front of them.

We'll hear more about what happened as the story develops. It also looks like they may want to consider a design change to the BRTs to eliminate sharp edges.

Steve

From: Don Hancock [mailto:srcidon@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2008 9:56 AM
To: Zappe, Steve, NMENV
Subject: RE: Punctured drum, lost sampling lines

Thanks.

I note that the gashed container had quite a bit of beryllium, so in addition to not gushing water, I hope beryllium didn't come out either, as that's not something I want WIPP workers breathing.

I also think that the handling of the stack should be changed. The permit doesn't require specific side and top clearance, but does say that the anticipated space from containers to walls is 8 to 18 inches (M2-2b). It certainly should have at least that much clearance from metal that's more likely in the short run to puncture containers than the wall. The forklift system is designed to minimize the likelihood of puncturing containers, but it doesn't look like stacking practice is doing that.

I hope that CBFO is encouraged to look at the stacking practice and make some changes as a result of this incident.

8/6/2008

080809



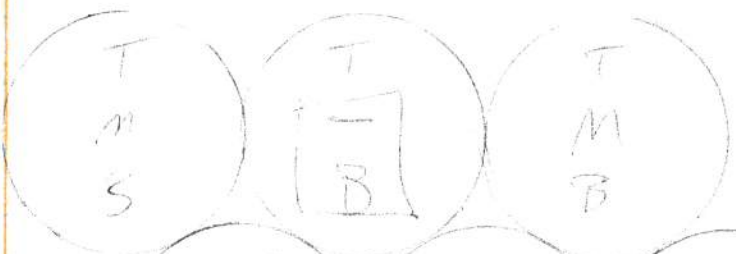
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CNTR_NUM	SITE_ID	HAN	TYPE_	WEIGHT	DISPOSAL_	PANEL_	ROOM_	SHIPMENT_NUM	ASSEMBLY_ID	EMP_ROW	EMP_COL	EMP_HEIGHT	BOREHOLE
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according to S/H picture
 (see Aug 21, 2008 letter)
 this should be 3T, not
 5T

1 2 3 4 5 6

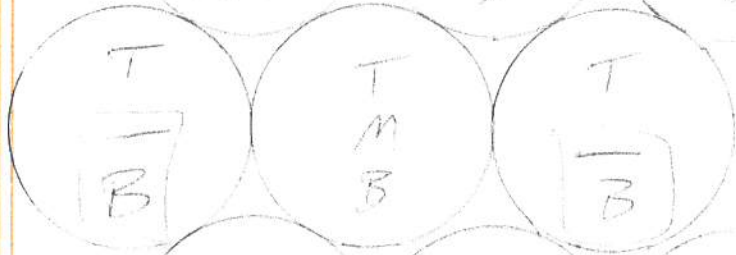
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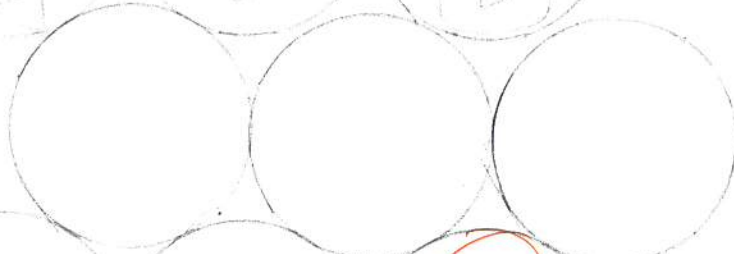
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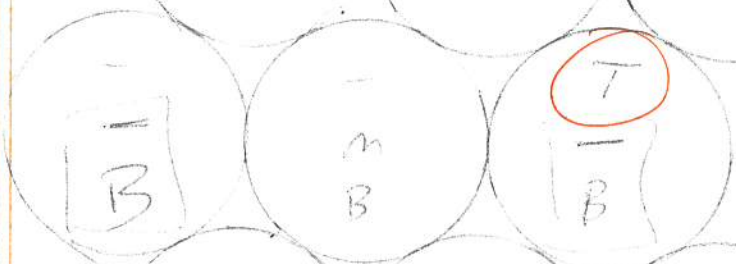
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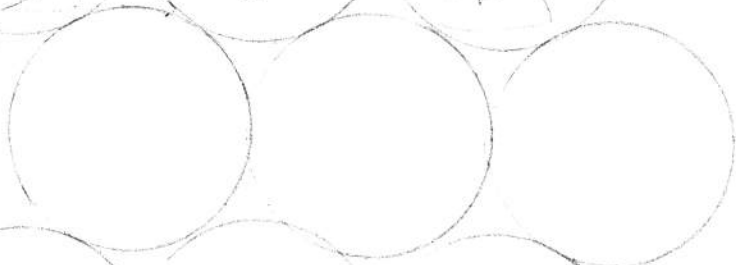
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83



84



85

