



Allen, Pam, NMENV

From: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 7:41 AM
To: Allen, Pam, NMENV
Subject: FW: STATUS OF B SAMPLES FROM 3/12/14 OUO

Importance: High

March

From: Kliphuis, Trais, NMENV
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 10:09 AM
To: Flynn, Ryan, NMENV; Kendall, Jeff, NMENV
Cc: Winchester, Jim, NMENV; Tongate, Butch, NMENV; Blaine, Tom, NMENV; Schwender, Erika, NMENV; Skibitski, Thomas, NMENV; LucasKamat, Susan, NMENV; Kieling, John, NMENV; Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV; Holmes, Steve, NMENV; Nelson, Morgan, NMENV
Subject: FW: STATUS OF B SAMPLES FROM 3/12/14 OUO
Importance: High

Trais Kliphuis
WIPP Staff Manager
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive E, Building 1
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From: Oba Vincent [<mailto:oba.vincent@cbfo.doe.gov>]
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2014 2:17 PM
To: Kliphuis, Trais, NMENV; 'Stone, Nick'; 'peake. tom'
Subject: FW: STATUS OF B SAMPLES FROM 3/12/14 OUO
Importance: High

Fyi, actions taken after discovery if high station B sample.

Thanks

Oba

-----Original Message-----

From: Stafford, Jim - URS [Jim.Stafford@wipp.ws]
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2014 01:18 PM Mountain Standard Time
To: Russ Patterson - WIPPNet; Oba Vincent - WIPPNet
Subject: FW: STATUS OF B SAMPLES FROM 3/12/14 OUO

Oba and Russ, here is my E-mail you requested on today's 1300 call. Please let me know if you have questions or comments.



Sincerely,
Jim Stafford
NWP Acting ESH Manager
575-234-8735 office
803-761-2279 cell
927 pager

From: Stafford, Jim - URS
Sent: Saturday, March 15, 2014 7:39 PM
To: Kennedy, Scott - NWP
Cc: Reynolds, Tammy - NWP; Rotert, Tim - NWP; Ferguson, Tom - NWP; 'Rankin, Brent'; Biggerstaff, Joe - URS; Jones, Stewart - RES; Satterfield, James - Bartlett; Mclane, Duane; Pye, Steve - URS; Suggs, Craig - NWP; Long, Mark - NWP; Hayes, Robert - NWP; 'jdheffner@bellsouth.net'
Subject: STATUS OF B SAMPLES FROM 3/12/14 OUO
Importance: High

Scott, here is a summary of what we know about the elevated B Station air sample pulled 3/12/14 at 0030. The 72 hour decay count completed today showed 61 dpm alpha and 12 dpm beta-gamma. The previous week's B Station 72 hour decay results were about an order of magnitude smaller than that sample. The next B Station sample pulled at 0845 on 3/12/14 was also slightly elevated with a 72 hour decay count of 14 dpm alpha and <MDA beta-gamma. Subsequent samples taken since then show normal ranges of activity on initial, 8, and 24 hour counts.

In discussions with you and Mark Long, FSM, we learned that during the same period of elevated activity we had several "spikes" in B station flow rates from nominal values of approximately 60,000 cfm to 72,000 cfm. In the week's worth of B station flow rate data reviewed, those appeared to be the only "spikes". Since these were not gradual buildups based on CMS data but rather sudden spikes, we speculated that perhaps trapped or entrained radioactivity could have been dislodged from the ventilation system based on sudden flow transients. I understand you have requested that CMS data for the period 1600 3/11/14 through 1600 3/12/14 be closely reviewed to determine if there is any additional data that could help explain the B station activity increase.

In response to the elevated 72 hour B Station decay data, Radcon conducted the following actions:

1. Performed geometric shielded surveys of the filter paper to determine if the contamination was evenly distributed or a spot source, which could indicate cross contamination from something such as a contaminated tweezer. The geometric analysis confirmed evenly distributed contamination across the filter paper, ruling out cross contamination.
2. We checked the A Station filter paper during the same time period and did not detect any abnormal readings compared to recent data.
3. We performed a spectrum analysis on an ISOLO for the two B Station filters, and both showed the same type of isotopes we have previously seen. (i.e. Am-241)
4. We checked the PAS sample data during the same time period from PAS sampler 1618, located adjacent to the CEMRC station approximately 40 feet from the B exhaust, and did not detect any abnormal readings compared to recent data.
5. We performed ground deposition surveys in the area surrounding the B exhaust, including south and east to the perimeter fence since that was the prevailing wind direction according to the CMR for this time period. We did not detect any contamination above background levels.
6. We are reviewing previous B Station data since 2/14/14 to see if any additional smaller increases detected correlate to a similar B Station flow transient. (Action Jim Satterfield and CMR)
7. We developed and issued Radiological Control and Dosimetry Timely Order Number 14-005, *Initial or Subsequent Count of Station B Filters*, which provides direction to RCTs on counting B Station filters and actions to take if initial count shows elevated levels compared to recent data, or with alpha to beta ratios greater than 2:1. It also provides direction for 8, 24, and 72 hour decay counts if decay patterns are not consistent with recent data. This will provide a much more timely notification of potential radiological issues with Station B. The CAM that will be installed soon on the B Station exhaust will provide additional timely notifications as well.

8. Discussed situation with Stewart Jones, Environmental, to determine if the South and East station environmental samples should be collected since the prevailing wind was predominantly blowing in their direction on 3/11-3/12/14.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thanks.

Jim

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Beeper 927