

New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

2040 S. Pacheco St., Santa Fe, NM 87505

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Date: 6-21-99

ENTERED

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MESSAGE:

DOE/Westinghouse FACT SHEET on
TRUPACT-II external contamination. Please
call me after you review. Thanks.

No. of pages (including cover) 3Original will be sent by mail YES NO

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FACT SHEET**Wednesday, June 16, 1999**

1. First CH waste from Rocky Flats arrived at approximately 2:00 pm
2. During the contamination survey of the three TRUPACT-IIs (#125, 129, 131) one swipe (number 14) - taken from empty TRUPACT-II #131 - was found to have an alpha contamination level of 70.03 disintegrations per minute (DPM) which is above the WIPP contamination limit of 20 DPM alpha
3. Immediate notifications of the Radiological Control Manager, the Occupational Health Physics manager and the OHP Team Leader were made
4. Four additional swipes were performed in the area where swipe #14 had been taken. These four swipes showed no contamination.
5. The original swipe #14 was recounted several times while the new swipes were being taken. Alpha activity levels in the first recount showed a decrease of more than 10%, suggesting the contamination was due to a short half life naturally occurring radionuclide. Subsequent swipes had variable activity levels from approximately 52 to 86 DPM
6. Because of the uncertainty of the activity levels the Central Monitoring Room (CMR) was notified at approximately 1650 of the detection of contamination and the call was properly logged in the CMRO logbook.
7. Forty one additional swipes were taken from the three TRUPACT-IIs. All were below the alpha contamination limit of 20 DPM. The highest reading was 2.92 DPM (1 count per minute) alpha.

Thursday, June 17, 1999

8. Swipe #14 was recounted. It showed 78 DPM alpha.
9. The swipe was given to the WIPP Laboratories Section, who performed alpha spectroscopy. That analysis showed 41 DPM alpha from the 100 minute count. Approximately 15 DPM of that total was found in the TRU energy region.
10. Radcon Techs performed an additional 90 swipes from the bottoms of all three TRUPACT-IIs. None of those swipes showed alpha contamination levels above the 20 DPM limit.

11. The WID Radiological Control Manager spoke with RFETS area Radiological Control Manager and relayed information related to this event. The WID RCM was informed that there were recurring problems at Rocky Flats regarding Polonium-210. There had been Po-210 found on some trailer roofs. Po-210 seems to have an affinity for metal surfaces. The alpha energy of Po-210 is 5.3 MeV, which is close to alpha energies found in Plutonium isotopes.
12. It is planned for WIPP Laboratories to analyze the swipe for isotopic content this weekend