



Environmental Protection & Compliance Division

Los Alamos National Laboratory

PO Box 1663, K490

Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

(505) 667-0666

SEP 19 2018

Date:

Symbol: EPC-DO: 18-348

LA-UR: 18-28831

Locates Action No.: N/A

Mr. John E. Kieling, Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

Subject: Five-Day Report – TA-35-85, Emergency Permit #18-001, Los Alamos National Laboratory

Dear Mr. Kieling:

On September 14, 2018, the Los Alamos National Security (LANS), in coordination with the Department of Energy (DOE), requested approval from the New Mexico Environment Department Hazardous Waste Bureau (NMED-HWB) to treat two unstable hazardous waste items at Technical Area (TA) 35 by emergency detonation. The NMED-HWB provided written authorization for the treatment, Emergency Permit # 18-001 on September 14, 2018. The Emergency Permit stated that the Laboratory must submit a report to NMED *detailing the specific activities conducted to render this waste inert under this emergency permit within five days after the emergency activity was completed, or no later than September 26, 2018.*

On September 14, 2018, during a chemical synthesis, a reaction vessel detonated causing a worker multiple laceration injuries. It was determined that the worker was conducting routine operations synthesizing 1,3-diazide-2,2-dinitro-propane. Upon assessment of the hood, LANS Emergency Management determined the two 50-milliliter containers which contained the same material were unstable due to heat exposure and the presence of etching on the vessel exterior. This condition posed an imminent and substantial endangerment to human health and the environment. In addition, the LANS Emergency Management determined that the safest response was to conduct on-site emergency treatment by detonation in a total containment vessel (TCV).

As authorized by the Emergency Permit, treatment was conducted at TA-35-85 in accordance with 40 CFR 270.61. The destruction was completed on September 14, 2018 at 1:15 pm, in a controlled and safe manner. Emergency treatment was effective and no waste residual or other hazardous materials remained after treatment.

Please contact Patrick L. Padilla of the Waste Management Programs at (505) 667-3932 if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Peter H. Carson
Group Leader

PHC/PLP/AME

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