

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas
77058

SEP 17 1978

Reply to Attn of:

SD5-79-CB-30

Mr. Karl V. Seyfrit
Director
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, TX 76012

Dear Mr. Seyfrit:

The following information is provided in response to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's IE Bulletin 79-19, "Packaging of Low-Level Radioactive Waste for Transport and Burial" and concerns radiation protection activities at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center (JSC), Houston, Texas, operating under NRC License Number 9388-01.

Plan of Action Schedule

A. Radioactive waste disposal at JSC is conducted by a waste disposal contractor, Todd Shipyards Corporation, Texas License Number 8-871. The waste collection contractor has been contacted to assure that appropriate safety requirements are in effect for transfer of radioactive waste.

B. A review of the JSC "Radiological Health Manual," JSCM 1860, was conducted to assure that basic management responsibility has been delegated for the safe transfer, packaging and transport of low-level radioactive material.

C. Immediate action was taken to notify all radioactive material users of the existing JSC requirements for radioactive waste disposal. Additional information was requested for users to report on the chemical and physical form of the radioactive waste.

D. Designated individuals are to attend retraining sessions at the earliest convenient date.

E. A management audit function has been established whereby audit of radioactive waste controls is to be conducted periodically by a subcommittee of the JSC Radiation Safety Committee.

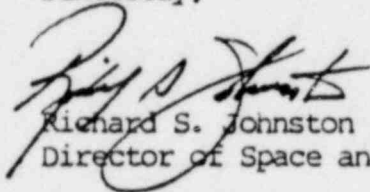
The following is in response to the requested information concerning the year of 1978 and the first six months of 1979.

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All radioactive waste was transferred to a waste collection contractor.

1. a. The total number of shipments? Three (3)
b. The total volume shipped is? Seventeen (17) drums, each of fifty-five (55) gallons capacity.
2. a. The quantity in curies is? 0.0509 curies.
b. The major isotopes? Tritium and Iodine-125
3. a. Liquid low-level radioactive waste was generated.
b. It was not solidified on site. Sufficient absorbent material was added to prevent spillage, sloshing, etc., for transport to the waste disposal contractor facility approximately 25 miles away. The waste disposal contractor then processes the liquid in accordance with Texas License 8-871, with the end product mixed with concrete.

Sincerely,



Richard S. Johnston
Director of Space and Life Sciences

cc:
NRC, Wash., D.C.
NA/W. M. Bland, Jr.
SD5/Dr. C. M. Barnes
SD23/Dr. A. W. Orsak