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Los Alamos

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File

memorandum

TO: Jesse Aragon, HSE Division Leader, MS K491 DATE: 13 January 1987

FROM: Julie A. Orcutt, HSE-1/NTS MAIL STOP/TELEPHONE: J900/7620

SYMBOL: HSE-1N-5627

SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT: MIGHTLY DERRINGER EXERCISE, MONTREV SITE

I joined the Los Alamos NEST party at Desert Rock Airstrip at about 1300 on Friday, 5 December. After three hours of negotiations between the NEST Advance Party and the Montrev government, our party was permitted to cross the border into Montrev.

The majority of my time was spent working as a member of the Damage Limitations Team. However, I also provided health physics support to the Assault Force (personnel and equipment radioactive contamination survey), the Diagnostics Group (tritium measurements and gamma surveys during ⁶⁰Co radiography), and the Disablement Team (post disablement area reentry - anti contamination clothing, respiratory protection, radiation and explosive mixture and toxic gas measurements).

The risks associated with plutonium lung doses attributable to the projected dispersal pattern were weighed against the risks associated with erecting the containment structure. The on-scene commander elected to forgo containment. Much of the Damage Limitation Working Group effort has been directed toward the health physics considerations of reentry into foam (a condition which would minimize spread and resuspension of plutonium). The lack of foam mitigation presented a very different health physics problem for the reentry party. If disablement without containment is a real possibility, we need more standard anti-contamination equipment (coveralls, full face respirators with hepa filters) and alpha detection instruments in addition to specialized foam reentry equipment (Gortex suits, SCBA).

I found my involvement in this NEST exercise to be most valuable. I am sure that my involvement in any future exercises, as well as my NTS work will benefit from this experience.

JAO:klv

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