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730-178

PTF:ams

CF 4.4 w/o encl

AIR MAIL

22 AUG 1958

Mr. Arnold B. Joseph, Sanitary Engineer  
 Sanitary Engineering Section  
 Division of Reactor Development  
 U.S. Atomic Energy Commission  
 Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Joseph:

Reference is made to your letter RD:NDB:ABJ of 28 July requesting information on the sea disposal of radioactive waste for DOD activities by this Laboratory.

A tabulation of the number of drums, concrete blocks and other miscellaneous items dumped as radioactive waste from the 1954 through August 1958 period is as follows.

Year	DRUMS		CONCRETE BLOCKS		OTHER		TOTAL	
	Number	Tons	Number	Tons	Items	Tons	Tons	Tons
1954	935	375	25	75	5 diesel engines	10	460	
					5 cables			
1955	1120	450	11	30	12 wing tanks	20	500	
					2 steel tanks			
1956	760	300	27	120	—	—	420	
1957	715	285	4	15	—	—	300	
1958	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
to date	232	90	0	—	2 engine tanks	10	100	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3762</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>240</b>		<b>55</b>	<b>1780</b>	

Since this activity disposes of packaged waste for other DOD agencies in addition to its own, the details indicated in your survey form are largely unavailable. Approximately half of the DOD waste is generated by NERL. Of this approximately 25% is liquid waste and 75% is solid waste.

Code	732(R)	730(S)	1	813a	100		
Reviewed by	AB	ONJ			JWQ:mlw		
Date	8/22	8/22			8/22		

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The NNDL waste is estimated to be 95% beta-gamma emitters and 5% alpha emitters. The half-life is fairly evenly divided between less than one year and greater than one year. The total activity content is difficult to estimate; we would put a top limit of 100 curies for the five years covered by the survey.

The location of the disposal area is latitude 37° 38' N, longitude 123° 79' W at approximately 1000 fathoms.

Enclosed is a copy of "Radioactive Waste Handling Procedures," which describes NNDL's waste packaging methods.

Very truly yours,

A.L. BAILEY  
Head, Health Physics Division

Enclosure

Copy to:  
OPNAV (Op-56) w/ enclo  
BUSHIPS (Code 372) "