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1977 DEC -7 PM 5:21

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FM ROGER RAY ASST MGR FOR ENVIRONMENT & SAFETY USDOE NV LAS VEGAS NV

TO RUWTFBA/BGEN C D TATE JR USA COMFLDCOM DNA KIRTLAND AFB NM

INFO RUEBDBA/DIRECTOR DNA WASHDC

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BT

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SUBJECT: BERYLLIUM CONTAMINATION OF RUNIT AS YOU KNOW, LLL HAS,

AT MY REQUEST ANALYZED FOR BERYLLIUM A SUITE OF RUNIT SOIL

SAMPLES IN THE NEAR VICINITY OF (AND SOME REMOTE FROM) THE

FIG-QUINCE AREA.

BERYLLIUM CONTENT OF THESE SAMPLES IS UNIFORMLY LOW AT

APPROXIMATELY FOUR-TENTHS TO FIVE-TENTHS MICROGRAM PER GRAM OF

SOIL.

FROM THIS I BELIEVE IT IS REASONABLE TO CONCLUDE THAT WE ARE

NOT ENCOUNTERING ANY SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF "FREE" BERYLLIUM -

THAT IS BERYLLIUM WHICH IS NO "TAGGED" WITH PLUTONIUM.

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IN FACT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THESE SOIL SAMPLES WHICH ARE IN THE RANGE OF NATURALLY OCCURRING BERYLLIUM CONCENTRATIONS, THE ONLY BERYLLIUM WE HAVE SEEN HAS BEEN IN THE DEVICE FRAGMENTS WHICH DO REVEAL THEIR PRESENCE BY THE PRESENCE OF THE ASSOCIATED ALPHA EMITTERS.

WITH THIS INFORMATION IN HAND, I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT FOR THE ACTIVITIES UNDER MY PURVIEW - SPECIFICALLY THE ENEWETAK BASED RADIOCHEMISTRY LABORATORY - WE NEED NOT MODIFY CURRENT HEALTH PROTECTION PROCEDURES, AND THAT WE DO NOT REQUIRE AND WILL NOT SEEK THE ASSISTANCE OF AN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST.

AS TO YOUR FIELD PROBLEM ON RUNIT, I CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE THAT WE LIMIT OUR DOE ADVICE TO RADIOLOGICAL MATTERS. THIS MESSAGE IS THEREFORE INFORMATIONAL ONLY. IT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A DETAILED REPORT OF LLL FINDINGS WHEN RECEIVED. END

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