



**Department of Energy**  
 Richland Operations Office  
 P.O. Box 550  
 Richland, Washington 99352

JUL 25 1996

96-EAP-192

Mr. Pat Svoboda  
 Environmental Specialist  
 Nuclear Waste Program  
 State of Washington  
 Department of Ecology  
 1315 West Fourth Avenue  
 Kennewick, Washington 99336



Dear Mr. Svoboda:

REQUESTED INFORMATION ON THE 324 PILOT PLANT TREATMENT, STORAGE AND/OR DISPOSAL UNIT

This letter provides preliminary information in response to your information requests associated with your June 13, 1996, inspection of the 324 Pilot Plant. The unit no longer exists but was located in the approximate area of Room 146 in the 324 Building. A petition for the withdrawal of the unit's Part A Application (Form 3) was submitted in 1989 and the unit was removed in 1991. The unit has been included in discussions with Jeanne Wallace, of your department, concerning the procedural closure of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) non-operational treatment, storage and/or disposal units.

It should be noted that during 1980-1983, the 324 Pilot Plant was operated by the Hanford Engineering Development Laboratory, which was consolidated with PNNL on July 1, 1983. This consolidation, combined with the fact that plant operations staff are no longer readily available for interviews, has delayed the investigation for the requested information.

Request - Information regarding the capped pipes, labeled TPS-1-55, TPS-2-70 and CBWASTE, in Room 146.

TPS-1-55 connects to line TPS-1-56, which empties into tank TK-108 in the 324 Building Low-Level Vault. TPS-2-70 connects to line TPS-2-69, which empties into tank TK-102, also in the 324 Building Low-Level Vault.

The pipe labeled CBWASTE connected to the crib waste system that drained to a crib waste trench. The crib waste system was taken out of service in the late 1970s to early 1980s. A record review did not indicate whether the 324 Pilot Plant may have discharged into this pipe. Efforts are continuing to determine if the pilot plant was connected to the crib waste system. Additional information on this issue will be supplied as it becomes available.

The discharge location of the reactor vessel drain lines indicated on the attached figure 1 and 2. Preliminary information from interviews with pilot plant operations personnel and a record review indicates that the reactor vessel discharged to the 324 Building retention process sewer (RPS). The RPS discharges to the 300 Area process sewer system, which is connected to the

Mr. Pat Svoboda  
96-EAP-192

-2-

JUL 25 1996

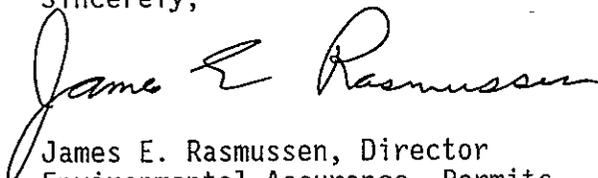
treatment effluent disposal facility (TEDF). Efforts are continuing to verify the discharge location. Additional information on this issue will be supplied as it becomes available.

Request - Photographs of the Sodium Removal Pilot Plant equipment.

A search of PNNL files has not located photographs of the 324 Pilot Plant equipment. Any additional information on the capped CBWASTE pipe and the discharge drain of the reactor vessel that we are able to obtain will be provided by July 31, 1996.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact M. A. Barnard of U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office on (509) 372-4391 or B. J. Day of PNNL on (509) 376-3835.

Sincerely,

  
James E. Rasmussen, Director  
Environmental Assurance, Permits,  
and Policy Division

EAP:EMM

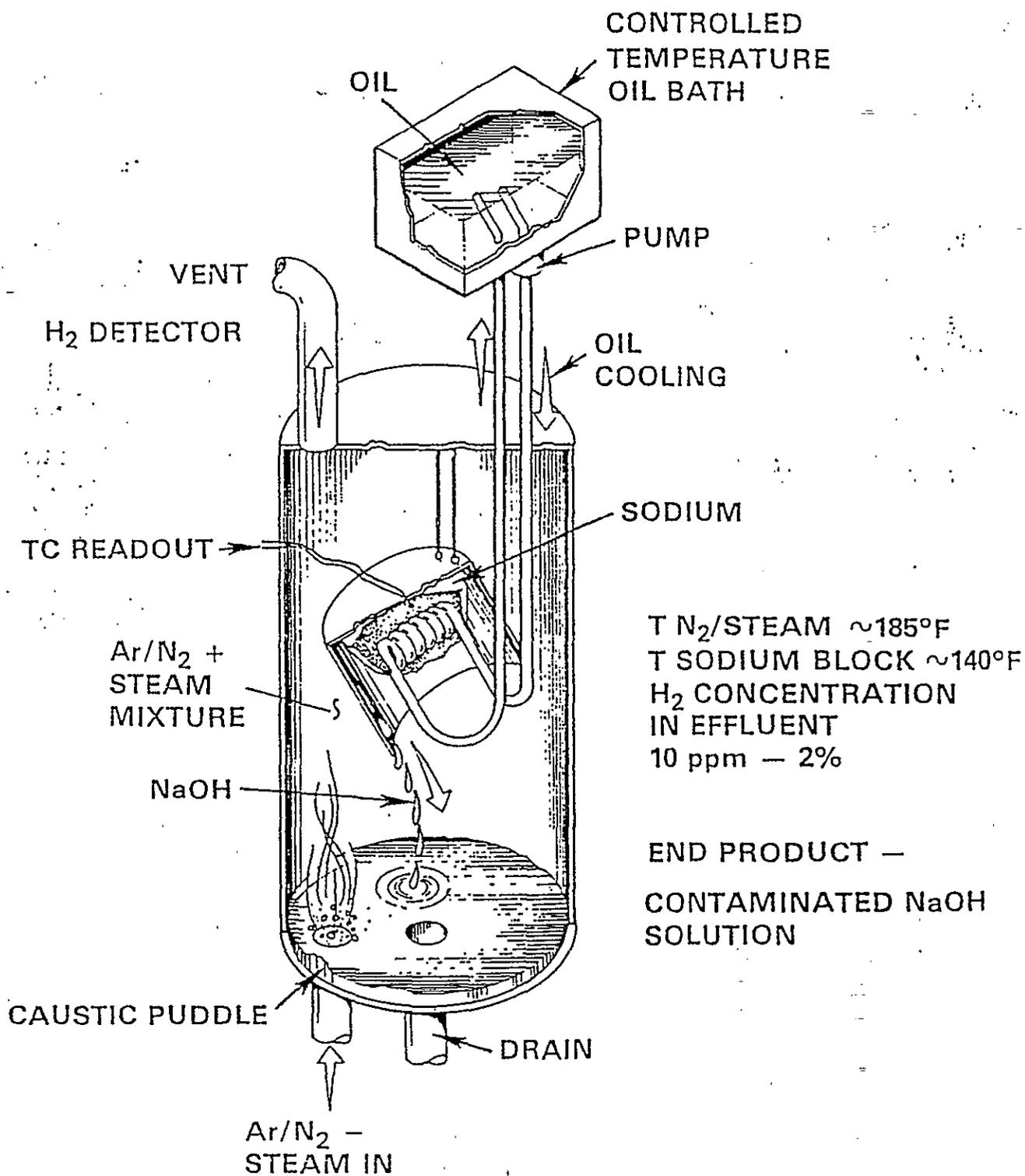
Attachments:

1. Figure 1 - Steam Disposal of  
Waste Sodium
2. Figure 2 - NaK Disposal

cc w/attachs:

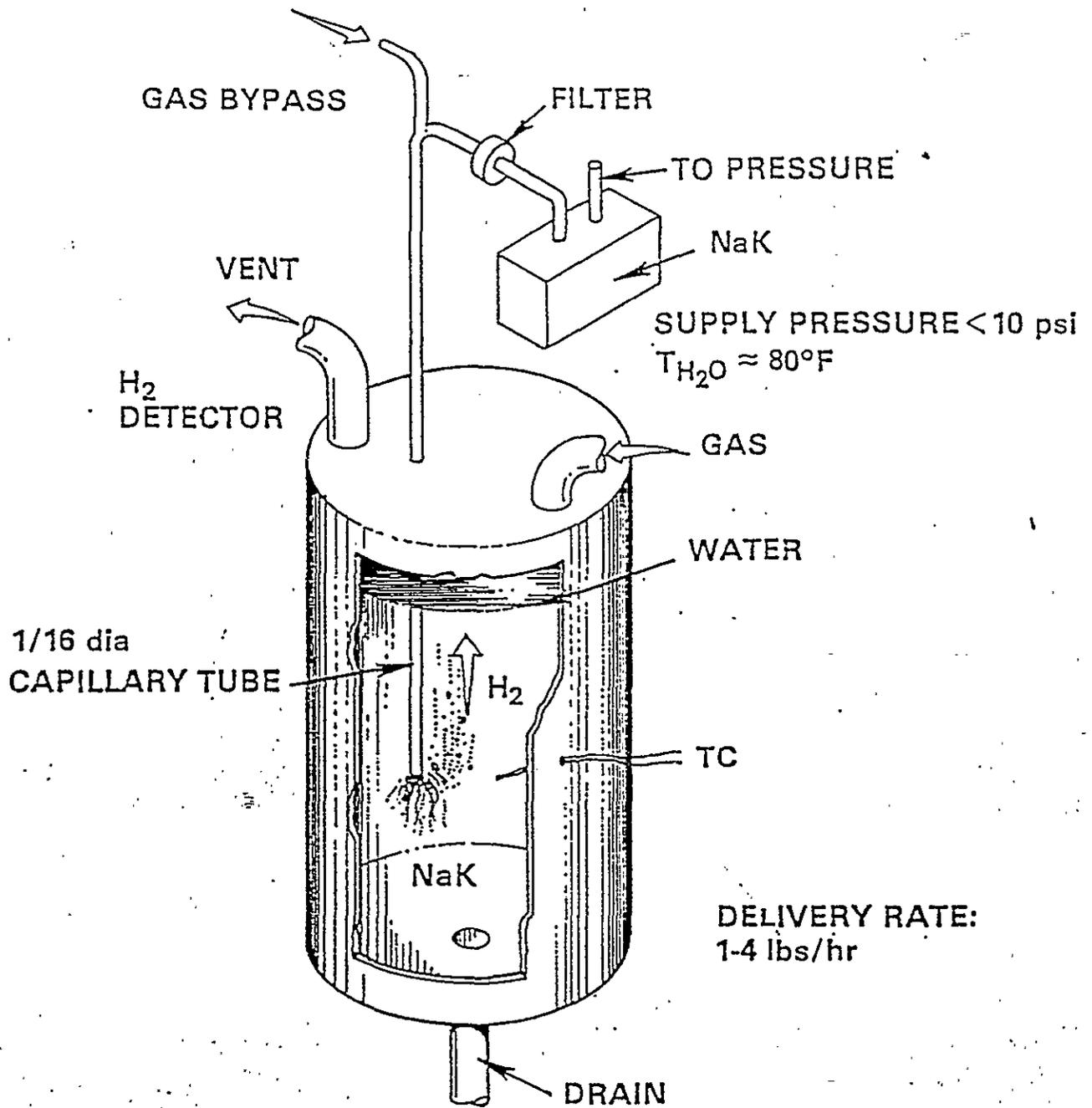
EDMC, H6-08  
R. C. Bowman, WHC  
L. M. Dittmer, WHC  
E. A. Flores, PNNL  
S. L. Jones, PNNL  
P. J. Weaver, PNNL  
S. V. Moore, Ecology  
J. J. Wallace, Ecology

FIGURE 1.



# STEAM DISPOSAL OF WASTE SODIUM

FIGURE 2.



DELIVERY RATE:  
1-4 lbs/hr

# NaK DISPOSAL



Date: 6/13/96

# Dangerous Waste Compliance Checklist

TYPE OF VISIT: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLIANCE INSPECTION COMPLAINT # \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Opening Conference: Yes No Site Tour: Yes No Records Review: Yes No Closing Conference: Yes No

### Site

Site Name: 324 Sodium Pilot Project WA 7890008967

Site Contact(s): PAT WEAVER

Title(s): 324 B Cell Project Manager

Phone: 1376-3075 Phone: 1

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 727

City: Richland Co: Benton Zip: 99352

Years on Site: \_\_\_\_\_ SIC# \_\_\_\_\_

Generator/Facility Status (circle): SQG MQG LQG TSD Recycler Other \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Business: Research

### Ecology

Lead Contact: PAT SVOBODA Phone: 509-736-5709 FAX 509-193-3030

Other Representatives: Kevin Christensen

Time On Site: 2:45 AM PM Time Off Site: 4:00 AM PM

Report Date: 6/13/96 Report By: PAT SVOBODA

### Process Information

Processes that Generate Wastes: N/A

Waste Streams (description or codes): N/A

### Pollution Prevention Suggestions, Technical Assistance Referrals

Information and assistance on the following environmental programs is available from:

N/A



