

183-H Basins - Corrective Action Description

Repack Drums: The contents of the two unpainted drums that were observed to be corroded and leaking were removed and repackaged in painted drums lined with double 10 mil polyethylene bags. An absorbent material was placed in the bottom of each drum and the headspace also filled with absorbent prior to installing the lids. Repackaging of the contents of the two corroded drums was completed on June 16, 1989.

The drums have been removed from the basin and stored in the 183-H staging area until they can be shipped to the Central Waste Complex (CWC). The corroded drum shells were cut up and packaged in a similar manner for transport to the CWC.

It should be noted that the two unpainted drums contained concrete debris resulting from the removal of the catwalks and flocculator basin structural supports. These drums did not contain sludge or liquids being removed from the basins as part of the closure, were never removed from within the fenced-off work area, and were never intended to be removed without repackaging as described above.

Inspect Radioactive Mixed Waste Storage Facility: An enhanced inspection of the drums stored on the CWC permitted storage pad was performed to look for potential corrosion/leakage as required in the Notice of Violation; no corrosion or leakage was found. This inspection was completed on June 29, 1989.

Drums stored in burial ground 218-W-4C, trench 24, were also inspected. The drums are temporarily stored in an array of two drums high and fourteen drums wide. Because of this configuration, the drums were inspected from the edge of the trench along their entire perimeter. No corrosion/leakage was found. This inspection was completed on June 29, 1989. The drums are being rearranged to create the required aisle space to permit routine inspection of all the drums.

The enhanced inspection of the 183-H drums found no corrosion problems. It should be noted that the drums in storage are either galvanized or painted and have polyethylene bags/liner and are, thus, substantially different from the unpainted drums found to be corroded at the 183-H site. Experience and corrosion studies indicate that the 183-H drums as currently stored should have an expected life in excess of 20 years.

Corrosion Assessment: A sample of the contents was removed from the drum which showed the most severe corrosion and sent to be analyzed for nitrates. An analysis on the probable cause of the corrosion was presented by WHC Decommissioning Engineering to Mr. J. J. Witczak (Washington State Department of Ecology) on July 18, 1989, at the 183-H Unit Managers' meeting. The corrosion assessment document will be made part of the 183-H Administrative Record.

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