



**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20585

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MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: DR. ROBERT GOLDSMITH  
DIRECTOR OF SAFETY OPERATIONS ASSURANCE  
OFFICE OF SAFETY MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Safety Alert - Leaking Drums

Two sites have recently experienced releases of highly radioactive liquid waste during routine drum operations. The drums failed due to extremely rapid corrosion from acidic liquids in the waste. The releases generated airborne radioactive conditions that challenged the ability of the sites to contain the leaks and subsequently clean up the areas. The attached Safety Alert describes the events, highlights the potential concerns, and recommends several actions for sites that handle drums of radioactive waste.

While recommended actions are not mandatory and a response to this Safety Alert is not required, we will examine the response during routine assessments and site visits. If you have any questions please call me at (301) 903-4954.

Attachment

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