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# LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER

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DATE: December 1, 1988

TO: All Facility Safety Heads

FROM: 429/Safety Manager, Head, Safety Engineering Branch, SSQRD

SUBJECT: Waste Oil Disposal Requirements

LaRC generates significant waste oil quantities during routine operations and facility maintenance shutdowns. We must dispose of waste oils in an environmentally safe manner.

The individual generator plays a major role in assuring proper disposal and in minimizing disposal costs. Generators must segregate oils and label the containers according to one of the following categories: natural petroleum, synthetic oil, phosphate ester oil and cutting oil.

Natural petroleum oils can be properly disposed of by burning as non-hazardous waste for little cost. Synthetic and phosphate ester oils can be recycled as industrial wastes, rather than hazardous wastes, for moderate costs. Cutting oils must always be disposed of as hazardous waste.

Waste oil disposal cost can be high. All waste oils must be considered hazardous waste unless proved otherwise. Laboratory analyses to characterize a waste oil sample can cost as much as $500 per sample. Actual disposal costs can be as high as $2 per gallon.

Mixing a hazardous waste with non-hazardous waste (besides being illegal) generally serves only to contaminate the non-hazardous waste, and increase disposal costs. For example, mixing less than one-half pint of cutting oil (or Freon) with 55 gallons of a natural petroleum oil renders the entire drum hazardous waste - estimated cost for one such drum, $650.

Hazardous waste minimization is required by EPA regulations. All LaRC personnel must continue to play a major role in meeting this requirement.

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