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*"Rummaging in the government's attic"*

Description of document: **Title Pages of (four of the) Five Oldest Still-Classified Documents in the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Research Library (as of May, 2008)**

Requested date: 02-May-2008, 02-May-2008, 03-May-2008

Released date: 16-September-2008

Posted date: 02-October-2008

Date/date range of document: Various dates in 1943 (some items undated)

Source of document: Source of document: Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Service Center  
P.O. Box 5400  
Albuquerque, NM 87185

Freedom of Information Act  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20585  
(202) 586-5955  
[FOIA-CENTRAL@hq.doe.gov](mailto:FOIA-CENTRAL@hq.doe.gov)  
[http://management.energy.gov/foia\\_pa.htm](http://management.energy.gov/foia_pa.htm)

Note: See release letter for information about aggregated FOIA requests and a list of all five oldest still-classified LANL documents

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Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Service Center  
P. O. Box 5400  
Albuquerque, NM 87185



SEP 16 2008

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

This letter is a partial response to your three Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests that we aggregated in to one (1) request. You requested on May 2, 2008 a copy of the title page of the five oldest still-classified documents at LANL (excluding documents in the LANL Research Library), on May 2, 2008 a copy of the bibliography of still-restricted or classified LANL historical reports and a copy of the title page only of each still-restricted or classified LANL historical reports, and on May 3, 2008 a copy of the title page of the five (5) oldest still-classified documents held in the LANL Research Library as determined by the library catalogue, or alternately a printout of the list of the five oldest still-classified documents held in the LANL Research Library.

I contacted the Los Alamos Site Office (LASO) that has oversight responsibility for the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) about your request. LASO asked LANL to search for the requested records. LANL searched at the LANL Research Library and the staff at the Library advised they no longer handle classified reports; the classified reports are in the LANL Records Center. With this information, LANL contacted the Records Center and the five oldest still-classified reports were located. The reports are:

1. LA-00002, cover and first page, The Los Alamos Conference, *Report of the First Meeting on April 15, 1943*;
2. LA-00004, cover and first page, First Los Alamos Conference, *Post-Conference Discussions*, Week of April 27, 1943;
3. LAMS-00014, cover and first page, Memorandum to Cap. W. S. Parsons from D. R. Inglis, dated September 28, 1943, Subject: *Sudden assembly of two diffuse masses compared with two dense masses*;
4. LA-00022, cover, *Neutron Multiplication during the Uniform Expansion of a Tamped Gadget*, September 1, 1943; and
5. LA-00026, cover and first page, *Critical Radii of Long Cylinders*, October 16, 1943.

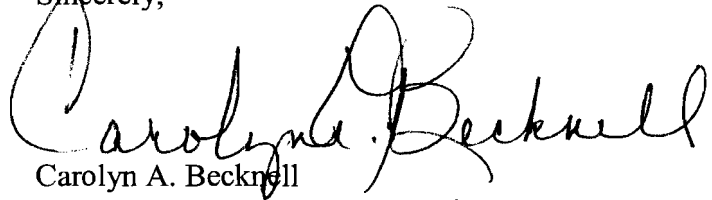
SEP 16 2008

Enclosed and responsive to your three requests are the requested records for Items 2 through 5 above. Item 1 is not provided as the cover and first page of the document are still classified today and would have to go through two reviews for release. As you know these reviews are very time intensive and can result in receiving at the end of the reviews little more than page numbers. Before we continue the review of the cover and first page of Item 1, please let me know if you want us to continue this process for release within ten days of your receipt of this letter. If I do not hear from you within this timeframe, I will consider your request satisfied with what is provided in this letter and will close my file.

There are no charges to you for processing your request.

If you have questions, please contact me by e-mail at [cbecknell@doeal.gov](mailto:cbecknell@doeal.gov) or write to the address on the first page. Please reference Control Number FOIA 08-165-C in your communication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carolyn A. Becknell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "B".

Carolyn A. Becknell  
Freedom of Information Act Officer  
Office of Public Affairs

4 Enclosures

OK

I

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Report LA 4  
Copy # 1

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LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY



3 9338 00360 3064

~~The document is classified as secret dealing with information that is of such a nature that its unauthorized disclosure could result in identifiable damage to the national defense.~~

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D. Helles /SAFE-1/9-4-08 ADC/ALD  
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FIRST LOS ALAMOS CONFERENCEPost-Conference Discussions

Week of April 27, 1943

1. Special Techniques and Equipment

-- Mc Millan, Chairman

I. Discussion by Mc Millan

Classification of instrumentation was made as follows:

- 1.) Equipment built by individuals for their own use.
- 2.) A group to build equipment for general use in laboratory.
- 3.) Standardization group to prepare, acquire, and care for standards, and be responsible for their proper use.
- 4.) Equipment for field measurements, such as remote control and indication devices for observing results of critical experiments.
- 5.) Equipment for ordnance measurements.

It was recommended that groups be set up to take care of 2.) and 3.), to be headed by Froman and Menely respectively. Group 2.) is not supposed to interfere with or restrict 1.), but it is expected that eventually it will take over a good share of the work that is now under 1.), relieving the research groups of some of their load. Group 2.) will have a double function: to design, improve, produce, and standardize measuring equipment; and to build equipment ordered by research groups to their specifications. Groups 2.) and 3.) will be expected to work in very close cooperation.

The question of space for these two groups was considered, with the consensus of opinion that rooms O-13, O-14, and A-15 should be released from present assignments for their use.

Bacher was named provisionally to head Group 4.). There was no discussion of Group 5.)

After the meeting, Froman and Waldman made tentative estimates of the personnel and space required for their groups. These recommendations were considered by the committee at a short meeting after lunch, and the final recommendations are contained in the attached reports. These were approved by those attending the record meeting.

Classification changed to: Unclassified  
 D. H. Drake / SAFE 1 / 5-4-08 (ADC/ADD)  
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 L. R. Drake / SAFE 1 / 9-4-08 ADD  
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Date

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September 28, 1943

L A MS 14

This document contains 6 pages

This is copy 3 of 3 copies

To: Capt. W. S. Parsons

From: D. R. Inglis

Subject: Sudden assembly of two diffuse masses compared with two dense masses.

Pursuant to a discussion which we once had in a conference, I have made an attempt to estimate some quantities which suggest that there is no great advantage to be gained by assembling two diffuse masses, rather than shooting an active plug of normal density into a tamped active hollow cylinder of normal density. Because of the uncertainty associated with an estimate of end corrections for short tamped cylinders, I submit an argument which gets rid of end corrections in an approximate manner by cancellation, so to speak.

The two cases to be compared are:

I. A cylindrical plug of radius  $a$  is to be inserted into a tamped cylindrical shell of internal radius  $a$  and external radius  $b$ . The length  $L$  of each active section is considered as given, and the radii are to be chosen so that the assembly is just critical when the plug starts to enter the shell. The time that is to be made short by means of high-velocity shooting is then the time required for the plug to travel the distance  $L$ .

II. Two cylinders, each of length  $L$  and of half normal density, are to be infused into each other so as to make a cylinder of the same radius, of length  $L$  and normal density. The radius is chosen to make the two diffuse cylinders critical when placed end to end. The demands on velocity for the two cases are

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W.D. - Nuclear Components,  
Principles & Testing



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L A REPORT 22

This is copy 3 of 12 copies

September 1, 1943.

This document contains 26 pages

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MAY 13 1993

NEUTRON MULTIPLICATION DURING  
THE UNIFORM EXPANSION OF A TAMPED GADGET

*W.D. Pringle & Testing*

WORK DONE BY:

Paul Olum

REPORT WRITTEN BY:

Paul Olum



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~~SIGMA 2~~

LA-26  
Copy 2  
Parts 1 & 2

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LA REPORT 26

This is copy 2 of 20 copies

October 16, 1943.

This document contains 51 pages

CRITICAL RADII OF LONG CYLINDERS

LOS ALAMOS EDITION: This edition (Copies 1 - 10) contains Parts 1 and 2. The abstract to Part 1 is found on page 2, and the abstract to Part 2 is found on page 19. Part 2, which deals with applications, has been omitted from the distribution edition (copies 11 - 20).

WORK DONE BY:

D. Inglis

REPORT WRITTEN BY:

D. Inglis

This work was done under the general supervision of H. A. Bethe, and helpful discussions have been enjoyed also with S. Frankel, E. J. Konopinski, and E. Teller.

Classification changed to: Unclassified

Dissemination SAFE 1 9/8/05 ADD ADD

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Laurence R. Durr SAFE 1 9/8/05 ADD ADD

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