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January 19, 2010

By Electronic Transmission

RE: RELEASE OF SITE

Dr. Louisa Hope-Weeks  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
Texas Tech University  
Lubbock, TX 79409

Dr. Hopes-Weeks,

We appreciate your desire to resume work in your laboratory, but the CSB will first need to clarify the state of the lab and any evidence associated with the 1/07/10 incident before releasing the scene.

As indicated in the evidence to preserve letter, the CSB requests that any changes to the scene be documented; therefore, we request all the photographs taken just after the accident and an additional set that shows the current state of the lab as of 1/19/10. Photographic files should be sent in their original digital format if they were taken with a digital camera. An electronic copy of the original digital camera files is acceptable. If the photographs were not taken in a digital format, please communicate the specific format and we will provide additional instructions.

In addition to the photographs, the CSB requests a list of all items that have been removed from the lab, including any chemicals and their amounts. For those items that have not been destroyed, please identify the secure location where they will be maintained, the plan for the evidence control log indicated in the evidence to preserve letter, and any modifications that have been made to the items. For items that have been destroyed, please provide a point of contact, including phone number, for someone in the local police department responsible for the removal and destruction of the items.

Finally, it has been indicated in phone conversations that some items were removed from the lab prior to the 1/7/10 incident, including vials of the chemical directly involved in the incident. To the best of your ability, please provide a list of those items and your knowledge of their current status and location.

After we have received responses to the requests above, we will re-address the request for release of the site.

**U.S. Chemical Safety and  
Hazard Investigation Board**

2175 K Street NW • Suite 400 • Washington, DC 20037-1809  
Phone: (202) 261-7600 • Fax (202) 261-7650

Office of Investigations  
Donald S. Holmstrom – Investigations Supervisor



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Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Beth Mulcahy".

Mary Beth Mulcahy, Ph.D.  
Investigator  
US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board  
Western Regional Office

Physical address for FedEx, UPS, etc.:

1 Denver Federal Center Way  
Building 20, Room A1419  
Denver, CO 80225

Address for US Mail:

P.O. Box 25465  
Lakewood, CO 80205

303-236-8705 (phone)  
202-591-6275 (cell)  
202-974-7602 (fax)  
[marybeth.mulcahy@csb.gov](mailto:marybeth.mulcahy@csb.gov)

Cc: Ronald Phillips, University Counsel  
Dr. Taylor Eighmy, Vice President for Research  
Dr. Brandon Weeks, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering  
Jared Martin, Senior Safety Officer  
Lawrence Schovanec  
John Zak  
Don Holmstrom, CSB Investigations Supervisor