



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**

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Office of Investigations
Donald S. Holmstrom – Investigations Supervisor



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

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