U.S. Department
of Transportation

Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety Administration

East Building, PHH – 24
1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20590

APPROVAL CA2012010027
THIRD REVISION
ISSUED BY THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES
EXPIRATION DATE: May 31, 2026

1. **APPROVAL HOLDER:** APT Research, Inc.
4950 Research Drive
Huntsville, Al 35805
United States

2. **REGULATORY AUTHORITY:** 49 CFR § 173.56(b)(1)

3. **SYNOPSIS:** The approval holder is authorized to evaluate, examine and test explosives and recommend a shipping description, division, and compatibility group, based on the tests and criteria prescribed in Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (49 CFR) §§ 173.52, 173.57 173.58 and 173.166. In addition, the approval holder may recommend packaging schemes/assemblies and assign tentative classifications to sample materials to be shipped to designated test sites.

4. **BASIS:** This approval is issued in response to APT Research's renewal application request dated February 12, 2025.

5. **PERIOD OF VALIDITY AND CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL:** This approval shall remain valid until provided all conditions of the approval are met, or unless suspended or terminated by the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety. This approval does not provide relief from any requirements of the Hazardous Materials Regulations and is subject to the following conditions:

a. Under the authority of this approval the approval holder may evaluate, examine and test explosives and recommend shipping descriptions, divisions and

compatibility groups, based on the tests and criteria prescribed in 49 CFR §§ 173.52, 173.57, 173.58 and 173.166. Only the following locations, as specified in APT Research, Inc.'s application, are authorized for all testing of explosives: N2L, Inc., HERMES Test Facility, New Market, AL; Redstone Test Center, Redstone Arsenal, AL; Eglin Air Force Base, FL; Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head Division, Indian Head, MD; Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division, Dahlgren, VA; and NTS, Inc., Camden, AR,UTEC Corporation, Riverton, KS and Hallowell, KS; or at the applicant's premises, if in the judgment of APT Research, Inc., there is sufficient capability, staff, and a safe location to perform the testing. Any additional test sites must receive prior approval from PHMSA, Approvals and Permits Division. All facilities must have current and valid licenses from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms at the time testing is performed.

b. A tentative classification issued by the approval holder for sample materials is only authorized for a single one-way shipment to the designated test sites as specified in Section 5a. of this approval for the specific purpose of testing for classification.

c. The approval holder must provide to individuals submitting a sample of a new explosive for testing information, directions, and a tentative shipping description and hazard class/division, including packaging instructions if needed, in writing, in order to assure that shipment of a sample is in compliance with provisions of 49 CFR § 173.56(d). This tentative shipping description is only to be used once for shipping of a sample from the place where it was produced to the test site designated by the approval holder.

d. The approval holder's CA Approval number **CA2012010027** must be noted on the shipping paper and marked in close proximity to the tentative shipping name and identification number on each testing sample shipped under this approval, in addition to the marking requirement in 49 CFR § 173.56(d)(3).

e. The approval holder must comply with the following additional provisions:

(1) Shall, in writing to the Approvals and Permits Division, name specifically, both initially and upon any changes to, all scientific or technical staff experts who have the requisite ten years experience specified in 49 CFR § 173.56(b)(1) and who are the persons responsible for:

(a) Communicating with each client all information pertaining to the procedure for conducting explosives examinations;
(b) Designing and supervising all explosives examination and testing procedures for any given applicant;
(c) Documenting all examinations and testing, including but not limited to maintenance of dated and witnessed laboratory notebooks, test apparatus and equipment calibration, drawings or photographs of the test articles, and video records of each outdoor test performed; and
(d) Preparing a final laboratory report and recommendation for DOT classification to each client.

(2) Each designated expert named by the approval holder in accordance with Section 5e(1) of this approval, must submit a resume outlining their requisite explosives testing experience as required in 49 CFR § 173.56(b)(1), before he/she may be authorized by PHMSA in writing to perform these duties for APT Research, Inc.

(3) The current list of designated expert(s)/authorized examiner(s) include the below listed approval holder employees.

Authorized Employee(s)
Pete Yutmeyer
John Tatom
Lon Santis

f. The approval holder must provide the following documents to the Approvals and Permits Division by February 1st for each previous calendar year:

(1) An annual report of activity carried out by the approval holder under this approval. This report of activity must include the following information for each explosive examination conducted by the approval holder:

(a) The explosive manufacturer (or party requesting the examination), date(s) and location(s) of each test;
(b) The name of the approval holder's authorized expert(s) who designed and witnessed each test;
(c) The tentative classification, if issued, for any unapproved explosive samples sent to the designated testing location/site; and
(d) The Hazard Classification recommended by the approval holder, if one was made.
(e) Separate report of the approval holder's activity with respect to 49 CFR 173.166. The report to include the manufacturer, date and location of test, test report number, drawing number, part numbers and maximum parameters considered if a design type approval was issued, an initial issuance or if a recertification.

(2) An annual statement attesting to the approval holder's compliance with all provisions of this approval, that:

(a) Nothing in the approval holder's original application has changed related to the examining laboratories business operations that affect the conditions and terms of this approval. Any change must be reported to the Approvals and Permits Division within 30 days of that change.
(b) The approval holder's key scientific and technical personnel authorized to perform DOT explosives evaluations and testing and make recommendations have not changed, and

that they are residents of the United States in accordance with 49 CFR § 173.56(b)(1);

(c) The approval holder's designated testing premises, listed in Section 5a. of this approval, have not changed;

(d) The approval holder does not sub-contract out their explosive classification examination/hazard class recommendation authorization to third-party contractors;

(e) The approval holder's employees do not manufacture or market explosives, and are not controlled by or financially dependent on any entity that manufactures or markets explosives, and whose work with respect to explosives is limited to examination, testing and evaluation;

(f) Includes a summary of all dates and locations for training the approval holder has provided to its employees on the terms and conditions of this approval, including training required under 49 CFR § 172.700;

(g) Includes a list of the approval holder's clients, including the name, address, and percentage of the approval holder's annual revenue generated from DOT classification testing attributed to each client.

6. **SPECIAL PROVISIONS:** A current copy of this approval and any subsequent authorizations must be maintained at the approval holder's address identified in Section 1 of this approval and at each facility listed in Section 5a. of this approval where testing is conducted under the terms of this approval.

7. **GENERAL PROVISIONS:**

a. Failure by the approval holder to comply with the terms and conditions of this approval and the Hazardous Materials Regulations, 49 CFR § 171-180, may result in the modification, suspension or termination of that person's authority to use this approval. Failure to comply may also subject that person to penalties prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §§ 5123 and 5124.

(1) Any change in majority ownership that has the effect of creating a new entity or altering the legal status of the approval holder must be reported to PHMSA within 30 days of that change. CA Approvals are non-transferable, and therefore, any change of majority ownership resulting in a new entity voids the CA Approval. In such a case, the laboratory must apply for a new CA Approval.

(2) Only persons listed in paragraph 5e. are authorized to perform DOT explosives classification evaluation, testing and make recommendations. All DOT explosives classification tests must be performed or witnessed by an authorized examiner. Only locations listed in paragraph 5a. are authorized for testing.

(3) This approval may be modified, suspended or terminated in its entirety if any action is justified in light of changes in circumstances or additional information not available when this approval was issued. The approval holder will be notified and provided with an opportunity to show cause why the modification, suspension or termination should not be taken, unless immediate action is necessary to avoid a risk of significant harm to persons or property.

b. Each "Hazmat employee", as defined in 49 CFR § 171.8 and including, for the purposes of the approval holder, any senior executives, professional scientific/technical personnel, hourly employees, as well as all subcontracted staff involved in explosives examinations, at the approval holder’s designated test premises or applicant premises where any explosives evaluation testing may be performed, must be provided training on the requirements and conditions of this approval in addition to the training required by 49 CFR §§ 172.700 through 172.704. All authorized professional staff of the approval holder must also attend training in the duties and responsibilities of this CA approval.

c. Certification requirement. Each final laboratory report and recommendation for DOT classification issued by the approval holder must contain the following certification statement prior to the signature: “I hereby

certify that this classification recommendation report, and all evaluation, examination, and testing carried out by APT Research in preparation of this report are in full compliance with the applicable requirements of the HMR and this approval".

Issued in Washington, D.C.

Dated: June 17, 2025

Address all inquiries to: Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590. Attention: PHH-24.