



Department of Energy

Field Office, Albuquerque
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

MAR 2 1992

Dear Neighbor:

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Los Alamos Area Office would like to know what's on your mind--particularly your concerns about how we are handling our environmental restoration and waste management programs. Our objectives are to:

- o Reduce risk to you, to us and to the environment;
- o Eliminate the potential for future contamination both at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and in the community;
- o Address the known and possible contamination from past operations; and
- o Continue to develop new technologies that will help us to accomplish these goals.

The DOE has developed a Five-Year Plan to accomplish these goals at all of its facilities. The LANL has a Site Specific Plan to accomplish these goals at LANL and in our community. Enclosed are fact sheets explaining the Five-Year Plan and the Site Specific Plan.

We would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to read these short fact sheets and fill out the enclosed survey. We want to know what you think about these plans and how you think LANL affects our community. We want you to feel free to make any comments or suggestions on our programs and to ask any questions you may have about LANL and its operations.

The survey is short, and a return envelope is included for your convenience. Your comments are an important part of our planning process and will be evaluated by DOE for use in setting priorities and budgeting for future environmental and waste management projects. If you have questions about the survey or would like to have additional copies of the survey, please call 665-5000 or 1-800-422-5265.

If you would like to know even more about our facility and the environmental restoration and waste management work we are doing, a complete file of reports on these activities is available for viewing at the LANL Environmental Restoration Community Reading Room, 2101 Trinity Drive, Los Alamos, New Mexico.

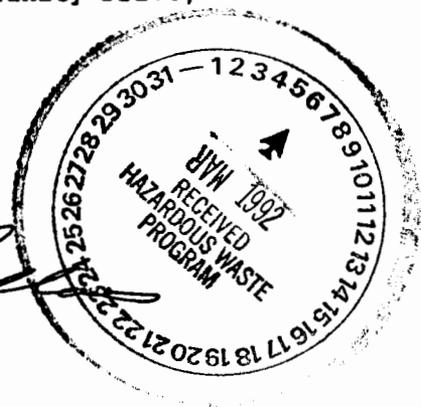
Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Bellows
Area Manager

LESH:1JM-002

Enclosures



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FACT SHEET LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

Introduction

The Department of Energy (DOE), Albuquerque Field Office is managing Environmental Restoration and Waste Management at nine DOE sites across the United States as part of a continuing effort to improve the nation's environment, safety and health. This Fact Sheet is provided to update the public on Environmental Restoration and Waste Management activities at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. It includes the following:

- A statement of DOE's commitment to Environmental Restoration and Waste Management
- A brief description of the Laboratory
- A summary of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management accomplishments
- A summary of planned future activities

DOE Commitment

Our nation has entered an era of keen environmental awareness, one in which the public is demanding environmental cleanup and participation in the environmental decision-making process. DOE's past culture of "secrecy," which evolved from the need to protect vitally important nuclear weapons data, was in direct conflict with the public's demand for involvement. DOE recognized the total secrecy was no longer needed and changed its culture to one of more openness and public involvement in the decision-making and policy direction process, particularly when public involvement affected the future of the nation's environment.

DOE is committed to making Environmental Restoration and Waste Management happen. Of equal importance, DOE is committed to encouraging the public to actively participate in the decisions leading to Environmental Restoration and Waste Management. This Fact Sheet is intended to keep you informed of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management activities at Los Alamos National Laboratory--those that have already taken place, and those that are planned for the future. In short, DOE is not committed simply to action, but to involving the public in that action.

Site Description

Los Alamos National Laboratory is in north central New Mexico, just south of the community of Los Alamos, and about 35 miles northwest of Santa Fe. The 24,000-acre Laboratory site is located on the Pajarito Plateau in Los Alamos County. The area, which is composed of a series of mesas and deep canyons, consists of large tracts of Federal and Indian land. Undeveloped land surrounding the site is used for security and buffer purposes.

The primary mission at Los Alamos National Laboratory is the research and development of nuclear weapon. Research on peaceful uses of nuclear energy has included space and medical applications, and power reactor programs.

Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Accomplishments

Corrective Activities

- completed the conceptual design for a centralized high explosives wastewater facility
- replaced 50 PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) transformers
- installed two new aboveground storage tanks

Waste Management

- completed the conceptual design for a Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment facility
- analyzed 300 compressed gas cylinders
- implemented Waste Minimization and Pollution Prevention Awareness Programs and Generator Education and Training

Environmental Restoration

- removed 10 underground storage tanks
- obtained approval of a Work Plan for one operable unit
- began and completed the decontamination and decommissioning of one reactor and one hot cell facility

Future Plans

Corrective Activities

- construct Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility
- consolidate sanitary wastewater systems
- complete modifications to Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Firing Sites

Waste Management

- construct radioactive asbestos burial pit
- construct Mixed Waste Receiving and Storage Facility
- construct PCB Handling and Storage Facility
- complete Hazardous Waste Storage Facility

Environmental Restoration

- complete eight RCRA Facility Investigations Work Plans in fiscal year 1992
- develop a master plan for decontamination and decommissioning
- decontaminate and decommission buildings 3 & 4 south in Technical Area 21

Information Contacts

Would you like more information about Environmental Restoration and Waste Management at Los Alamos National Laboratory. It's available free-of-charge. Just write or call:

Los Alamos National Laboratory
Environmental Restoration Community Reading Room
P. O. Box 1663, MS M314
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
(505) 665-2127

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION/WASTE MANAGEMENT SURVEY
FOR
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

March 2, 1992

Your cooperation in filling out this survey will help the U.S. Department of Energy assure that the plans for environmental restoration and waste management at Los Alamos National Laboratory take into consideration concerns and suggestions of individuals and groups in the community.

The information provided by this survey will be compiled and sent to the Department of Energy Headquarters where the Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management will use the data to help formulate plans and budgets for Fiscal Years 1994 to 1998.

Please read the enclosed fact sheets on the Five-Year Plan and the Site Specific Plan, and fill out the attached questionnaire. Fold the completed questionnaire so that the address is on the back, staple and return NO LATER THAN MARCH 23, 1992.

We will answer specific questions directly if you will provide your name, address and telephone number in the space provided.

Thank you for your cooperation.

OMB DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comment regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to:

Office of Information Resources Policy Management Policy
Plans and Oversight, AD-241.2
GTN Paperwork reduction Project 1910-0300
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue
Washington, DC 20585

and to:

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
Paperwork Reduction Project 1910-0300
Washington, DC 20503

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Please list your concerns about the Environmental Restoration Program now underway at Los Alamos National Laboratory:

Please list your concerns about the Waste Management Programs now underway at Los Alamos National Laboratory:

Please list your suggestions on how the Department of Energy can improve the Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs at Los Alamos National Laboratory:

Please list any questions you have about Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Please use the back of the survey or attach pages for additional comments.

Where do you get most of your information about the mission and operations of Los Alamos National Laboratory?

_____Newspaper _____TV _____Radio_ Information provided by Los Alamos National Lab _____Other (please list)_____

Would you like to have a speaker from Los Alamos National Laboratory make a presentation to your organization (civic, church, professional, school, social, neighborhood, environmental)? If you would like to schedule a speaker, please indicate below or call the Community Relations Group at 665-5000 or 1-800-422-5265.

What topic would your group be interested in?

_____Environmental Restoration

_____Waste Management

_____Other Activities at LANL (Please indicate)_____

Name_____

Organization_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Telephone number _____

ER Community Relations Office
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P. O. Box 1663, MS M314
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545