

1 Copy

file LANL
94

MEMORANDUM

TO: Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief
THROUGH: Barbara Hoditschek, Program Manager
FROM: Robert S. (Stu) Dinwiddie
DATE: August 29, 1994
RE: Notes from LANL meetings the week of
August 15 through 18, 1994

The following is a transcription of my notes from the above mentioned meetings.

TCLP for lead at OU 1071 is 6.6. This was found at SWMU 016 according to CST-9.

Beached soil was mounded up (apx. 150 cubic yards per pile) and composite samples were taken.

The smallest amount sampled was removed and the analysis was rerun to verify.

TA-12 1085

Pit 12-001(b) is contaminated with uranium oxide and RDX and HMX both of which are "persistent" high explosives.

Eastern edge has an aluminum pipe sticking out of the ground and no one knows what it is or where it came from let alone its purpose.

The pipe is not connected to the rad shelter on the eastern edge of TA-12.

TA-14 1085

He contamination is predominately PDX.

TA-14 is a bullet impact area with lead and rad. mil. spec. contamination.

There is a small incinerator on the site for reactives. When I pressed them on information about the incinerator they denied having it permitted (it is not) and they denied any intention to permit it claiming it was not used. The incinerator is a 55 gallon drum with a sand liner for burning explosives.



12532

Tc

OU1100 (TA-20/53/72)

TA-20 1100

From 1945 through 1948 TA-20 was the special weapons initiator development site. It was allegedly cleaned up.

TA-20 Aggregate A was closed and cleaned in 1948.

Aggregate B is being investigated.

TA-72 has water supply wells on/in it. There is extensive demolition and decontamination taking place where there were pits.

TA-53 has been determined to have a perched aquifer both north and south of the site. There are no wells in TA-53.

Alluvial aquifer location (if any) in TA-20 is unknown. There is vadose zone monitoring but that system is dry.

Asked question about where the drums and building/pit debris went when closed/cleaned. No one could answer the question satisfactorily.

TA-43 1136

In 1975 they quit pouring Low Level Waste down the drain.

In 1987 they quit pouring photo processing chemicals down the drain.

In 1992 TA-43 was connected to the "Lab Sewer System".

The incinerator was closed in 1992 and the room was turned into a computer room.

FIELD/TOUR NOTES

TA-43

No TRU waste was burned in the incinerator.

No one could answer the question about decontamination of the stack. (rad contaminated soot)

Allegedly only "medical isotopes were in material burned". The material consisted of feces, cage liners, body parts and carcasses.

Which isotopes? Iodine, which one? **Cesium**, which one? What else. No specific data was given

Sandia Canyon 1049

There are Navy Gun Barrels in the MDA just off the road.

Sampling and analysis being developed for the firing sites in

Sandia Canyon. Concentrating on Uranium and HE.

FIELD/TOUR NOTES CONTINUED:

TA-53

The cooling water outfall from the fabrication area is the only outfall to be sampled.

SWMU 53-005 is a waste solvent electronic equipment oil area that was "cleaned up" 1986. SWMU is being revisited because of lack of records.

A concrete tank was built in mid 70s. It is not inspected, pumped a couple of times per year, cannot tell if it leaks or not. It is located in the basement of the Wet Rad Chem Lab at the MESON Facility.

OLD ASPHALT PLANT NEAR CEMETERY

SWMU 0046

Noticed a number of dead trees in the water course both up and down stream from the asphalt plant. All are in a fairly narrow band near the water course bed. Pointed them out to Mary from AIP too.

MEETING NOTES

ACTION PLAN

The proposed action plan will improve:

- Management
- Subcontractor Use
- Construction Strategies
- Permitting Straightedges
- Assessment Strategies
- Corrective action Strategies
- Site Investigation
- Site Remediation
- ER Waste Management
- Public Involvement
- Future Land Use
- Measurement of Success

Now the biggest problem at the lab is coordination between OUs when it comes to Operations Procedures.

Dave McInroy is now the head of Compliance Office.

Tracy ? is now the head of the Technical Compliance Office ensuring consistency throughout the lab.

Funding is now by PRS (potential release site) and not OU.

OUs are now grouped into the "6 Pack"

Remediation will be conducted by specific qualified contractors for each job.

SITE ASSESSMENT

"There may be cases where a full fledged assessment is required."

Barbara Driscoll told LANL that they must have a specific sampling plan for each site.

The IWP as we know it will cease to exist.

LANL will continue to categorize and then discuss data to determine remediation. LANL will continue to "validate the lab results".

WASTE Management will rely on characterization, recycling, and disposal.

Quarterly E.R. Meetings will be discontinued.

COMPOSITE SAMPLING

The higher the decision level the higher the number of samples composited.

Are the saved increments of samples stabilized?

There is a trade off between cost effectiveness and accuracy.

Samples for compositing SALs are taken from the top 6".

PRIORITIZATION

There must be a new baseline established for establishment of priorities.

The number one priority is a SWMU within one mile of a supply well.

TA-49¹¹⁴⁴ has plutonium contamination in the soil and on the surface.

RRS evaluation needs to be weighted and readdressed.

No "point system" for politically sensitive SWMUs, Town Site, etc:

Presently there are SWMUs classified as low that should be high

Ted Taylor referred to the ranking system as "cannon fodder for the new baseline" and that "site ranking system is crosswise with EIS that is in progress."

There will be a public meeting on the revised site ranking system.

GROUND WATER MONITORING

Most wells are screened over 300 feet. (production wells)

Three kinds of ground water at LANL, Main Aquifer, Intermediate Perched Zones, and Alluvium

There are some shallow perched such as Pajarito fault area.

Overall decline of the main aquifer is 100 feet.

None of the vadose zone wells were indicated on their map. Nor were they discussed.

Test wells A, 2A, and 8 show surface contamination.

E.R. wells are for increased funding requirements.

The state is to evaluate and set the needs for the GWM Program at LANL.

EPA wants resampling on all sampling wells.

Resampling is \$100,000 per analysis. \$80,000 per analytic run and \$20,000 per bladder set.

If E.R. pays it is contract for water analysis.

LANL blames unwanted hits on lab error. That is why I have a problem with "LANL validating Lab Results".

QAPP

QAPP was removed in the last IWP.

Now there are project/site specific QAPP.

QAR-5 (from EPA) is not required for use by LANL.

Standardization of Sampling/Analysis methods and their documentation will be improved.

QAPP will have an SOP only for EPA projects. Other than that LANL will have an established SOP.

Barbara Driscoll asked who would ensure the field team followed

SOP/QAPP.

LANL claimed there are "on site inspectors" to determine if QAPP is followed.

NEW SWMUs

Bandelier Landfill, LANL claims less than 1/3rd on the south end.

Borrow Pits: suspected contamination with depleted uranium and lead. Hub cap found there was hot.

The surface disposal area in Bandelier has a vintage 1930s vehicle in it.

NODs

Technical assumptions document "E" requires that background be used for comparison.

LANL has been using VOCs SALs as background. Background for VOCs at LANL should be zero not SAL.

LANL objected to EPA requiring resampling for something when the hit was less than SAL.

EPA told LANL that they had to determine extent of contamination without reference to SALs.

EPA also told LANL that if it comes back blank and they are not doing enough to begin with they will be required to resample.

OU1111

Soil at 1111 is not deep.

LANL insisted that physical analysis be allowed to be based on SALs.

SWMU 1114

Mercury SWMU during the first lift apx 1 meter soil stored as mixed even though there was no red component.

Second lift apx 1 meter plutonium, cesium, and tritium were detected.

Third lift all cesium was gone and the TPH was 1.5%

LANL stated they would not chase fractures in the further investigation of this SWMU.

Plan II for the SWMU is "detect and monitor the extent of radiation migration."

Look for TPH over 100.

Clean tritium to residential standards.

They have not confirmed the absence of plutonium and cesium at the site. Is it all gone?

All VOC screening will be done with a PID.

Point of compliance will be based on PID results.

SSAB

A discussion about the problems observed during the set up of DOE/SNL SSAB indicated that DOE/LANL does not want the same thing to happen there. LANL will start with the contracting of a moderator to ramrod the meetings.

According to "Grumly" everything is to be on the table.

VCA

A Class III permit mod has a 105 day public comment period.

If the SWMU is not in the permit then clean it up.

If the SWMU is in the permit then Modify the permit.

CAMU

The CAMU proposal is based on an on-site disposal capacity potential problem.

TA-15 firing sites F and E are contaminated with 63 tons (126,000 pounds) of depleted uranium, natural uranium, and enriched uranium.

LANL questions the feasibility of the clay liner requirement and wishes to use one developed by SNL.

Uranium, beryllium, and lead are not covered by LDR because CAMUs are LDR exempt?

CAMU rule does not address mixed waste.

Hanford has proposed the same CAMU.

TA-16 has high concentrations of Lead and Mercury used in explosives. It is not known where all the mercury went.

LANL is required to ID LDRs by EPA.

Mixed waste Permit submittal will be made in September 95. It will be out by September 99. (Barbara those are LANLs words not mine and I did not agree to it)

EPA Headquarters expects to loose the CAMU rule court case.

LANL will address and prep 40 VCAs to add to each years Class III Modification to the HSWA Permit.