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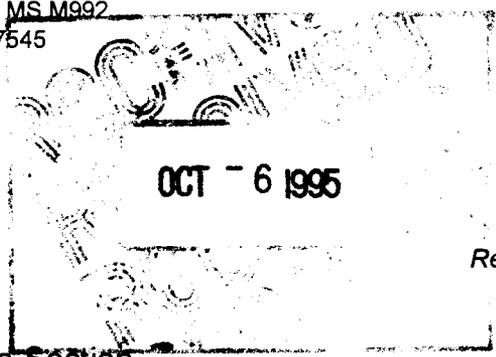
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Los Alamos National Laboratory

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

University of California
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Date: October 4, 1995
Refer to: EM/ER:95-541

Ms. Barbara Driscoll
NM Federal Facilities Section
Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Teri ✓
Susan ✓

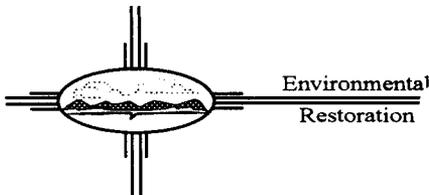
SUBJECT: AGREEMENTS AND ACTION ITEMS FROM JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA), DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE), AND UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC) MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 18-19, 1995

Dear Barbara:

Enclosed are draft meeting notes outlining the agreements and action items from the joint EPA, DOE, and UC meeting held on September 18-19, 1995, in support of the Los Alamos National Laboratory's Environmental Restoration Project.

We have added the agreements and action items from the September 19 meeting to those items you reviewed from the meeting on September 18. The only change to the September 18 notes, other than cosmetic changes, is listed as an Action Item under Risk Calculations/Assessment. Specifically, we have added the fourth bullet regarding the analysis polyaromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) background data. Please review these important draft agreements and action items and let us know if you have any recommendations for changes, deletions, or additions.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to meet with you, Jeff, and Mike on these important risk-based issues. Everyone is in agreement that this type meaningful dialogue between the ER Project and the EPA is critical to the success of our program. We look forward to increasing our communications with you and your staff in the future.



An Equal Op

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HSWA LANL GEN/Misc/6

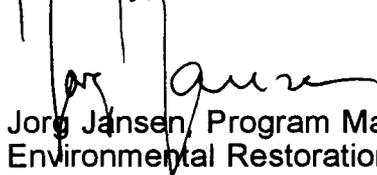
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Ms. Barbara Driscoll
EM/ER:95-541

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Please call Tracy Glatzmaier (505-665-2613) if you have any questions or changes to the enclosed document. If Jeff or Mike have specific technical concerns, please ask them to call Alison Dorries (505-665-4791) directly.

Sincerely,



Jorg Jansen, Program Manager
Environmental Restoration Project

Sincerely,



Theodore J. Taylor, Program Manager
Los Alamos Area Office

JJ/TT/rfr

Enclosure: September 18-19, 1995 Meeting Draft Agreements and Action Items

Cy (w/enclosure):

G. Allen, CST-18, MS E525
A. Dorries, TSA-11, MS K557
C. Fesmire, LAAO, MS A316
B. Garcia, HRMB, NMED
M. Gilgosh, LAAO, MS A316
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G. Gould, ESA-DE, MS G787
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G. Rael, ERD, AL, MS A906
W. Spurgeon, DOE-HQ, EM-453
J. Vozella, LAAO, MS A316

**JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA),
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE), AND UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY (LABORATORY)
ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECT
MEETING AGREEMENTS AND ACTION ITEMS**

September 18-19, 1995

GENERAL

Action Items:

- Focus Laboratory/Sandia National Laboratory tour for EPA regulators and Risk Assessment personnel in October to visit specific sites, especially those being proposed for expedited cleanup (EC) in Fiscal year (FY) 96. Have tour be at least 2 days in Los Alamos. Include eco risk person on tour.
- Put together list of sites for expedited cleanup for 96.

BACKGROUND

Agreements:

- Use of Laboratory-wide background data is acceptable for screening and risk-based decisions.
- Use of the UTL as comparative metric is acceptable if Laboratory changes to 95th confidence level of the 95th percentile of the distribution, not 95th confidence level of the 95th percentile of the distribution.
- For analytes with screening action levels (SALs) within background, present the risk using background data and site-specific information (e.g. land use, horizon, strata, etc.).
- If SAL is within background, perform shift tests of the distribution (description included in Background Policy paper) and include eight assumptions to justify appropriateness of test (present assumptions as a checklist with data write-up).
- Calculate risk due to background based on Laboratory-wide set for any contaminant carried forward.

Action Items:

- Update policy paper to reflect the agreements above.
- Write background report to reflect 95%, 95% agreement.
- Prepare checklist of appropriate statistical (eight) assumptions and work with Jeff Yurk to finalize.

RISK CALCULATIONS/ASSESSMENT

Agreements:

- It is acceptable to base SALs on EPA Region IX preliminary remediation goals (PRGs), and Federal, New Mexico, and Tribal water standards, where applicable.
- Special Considerations for PAH:
 - ◊ PAHs will be carried forward as contaminants of potential concern (COPCs) when the following conditions exist.
 - PAHs are present at a site above background and SALs,

- a non-Laboratory-related source for these PAHs is not identified, and
- a Laboratory release cannot be ruled out.
- ◇ PAHs will not be carried forward as COPCs when the following conditions exist:
 - PAHs are present at a site above background and SALs,
 - no Laboratory release is suspected, and
 - a non Laboratory-related source for these PAHs is identified.
- The Laboratory can propose sites for no further action when risk is within range of 10^{-4} to 10^{-6} and $HI \leq 1$ however, EPA may not approve of this approach on a site-specific basis.
- If stochastic modeling techniques are used to calculate risk (Monte Carlo simulations), present all assumptions, and calculate the RME using the deterministic approach as well.

Action Items:

- For the sites where PAHs are not carried forward Laboratory needs to provide a qualitative sentence indicating the sites would not have been a problem anyway, based on exposure and risk assessment considerations.
- Use existing data, or take samples, to assess background only for sites where PAH would drive the cleanup or where PAH is a result of Laboratory operations.
- Carry PAHs forward when other contaminants are present for risk considerations during risk assessment and the derivation of cleanup levels. Carry PAHs forward when the PAH contamination is a result of Laboratory operations.
- Cease analyzing available PAH data for background construction and evaluation as this analysis will no longer be required to support screening or cleanup decisions.
- Incorporate future use of land (if land is identified as a potential site for transfer from DOE) in site-specific scenarios.
- Find list of potential land transfer locations and update for potential release sites.

STRATEGY TO DERIVE CLEANUP LEVELS

Agreements:

- Propose cleanup levels on site-specific basis.

Action Items:

- Laboratory will provide a matrix with all parameters for each cleanup level. Need to include cost factors, but do not stress these as basis for decision.
- Barbara will ask her Section Chief if Laboratory should search the ROD database for justification of cleanup levels.
- EPA will evaluate the use of 1 ppm as a SAL for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).
- When deriving site-specific clean-up levels, the Laboratory will calculate a risk scenario for each PCB site.

ECOLOGICAL RISK APPROACH

Agreements:

- EPA's Superfund guidance document should be followed during the conduct of "quantitative" eco-risk assessments.
- In general, EPA approves of the Laboratory's proposed ecological risk approach: Screening all sites (including habitat screen), aggregating sites into relevant "EcoZones," and quantitatively evaluating eco risk for each zone, including residual contamination and remediation disturbance tradeoffs.

Action Items:

- Jeff will look at Laboratory's DRAFT Ecological Risk Assessment document and provide informal comments to Alison and authors of the paper.
- The Laboratory and EPA need to work together on process for combining PRSs into aggregates or into "EcoZones" then work on language that could be added to the permit.
- The Laboratory will perform the eco-screening assessment for the two PRSs proposed for expedited cleanup (9-013 and 22-015(c)) in response to the Notice of Deficiency (NOD).
- EPA stressed that it is important to involve them early in the eco-risk process to reach agreement on the measurement and assessment endpoints before the collection of data and eco-risks are performed.

ACCELERATED DECISION LOGIC

Agreements:

- In general, EPA supports development of the Accelerated Decision Flow diagram and endorses the implementation of the process.
- Quality of RFI documents are more important than meeting deadlines for submittal.

Action Items:

- EPA will review the Accelerated Decision Flow document and provide informal comments to Alison.
- For the Accelerated Flow diagram: the Laboratory will clarify Criteria #7 (whether accelerated action is appropriate) to focus on risk assessment and data analysis, rather than data collection and will elaborate in the data collection steps where decisions will require more/less data to be taken in the field as a result of first turnaround of analytical results.
- The Laboratory will develop flow charts (or equivalent) that indicate the process of getting documents through reviews, when regulator involvement is required, and proper signature requirements.
- For RFI reports to be submitted to EPA: the Laboratory will incorporate sampling and analysis plans (SAPs) before submitting any reports that recommend further action and will consolidate reports with close due dates within Field Units. The Laboratory can submit reports that contain NFAs and retain portions that require SAP development for later submittal. Requests for extensions must be made in a timely manner (i.e., not on the day the reports are due).
- The Laboratory will send to EPA a current status of RFI reports that are in the mill that still need to have SAPs developed and will formally request extensions for those reports.
- The Laboratory will send Barbara copy of the final RFI Report Outline.