

Summary of Environmental Restoration Issues Meeting
Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratory
October 10, 1996
Santa Fe, New Mexico



Attendees:

NMED: E. Kelley, B. Garcia, S. Dinwiddie, S. Kruse, S. Hoines, S. Zappe;
DOE-AL: R. Sena, D. Griswold, T. Trujillo;
DOE-KAO: M. Jackson;
SNL: W. Cox;
DOE-LAAO: T. Todd, J. Vozella, T. Taylor;
UC: J. Jansen, T. Glatzmaier.



The meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. and adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Welcome and Introductory Statements

It was reported that Coby Muckelroy and Barbara Hoditschek are leaving HRMB. It was noted that the meeting will consist of a free flow of ideas on the ER issues, with involvement at the "working level."

S. Dinwiddie Presentation

1. Document Backlog. NMED will work off the backlog of documents submitted by LANL and SNL within 18 to 24 months. A document review priority list will be prepared. The process to be used by NMED will consist of (1) NMED review and issuance of a NOD, (2) submittal of NOD response by the facility, (3) NMED request for supplemental information as appropriate, (4) submittal of supplemental information by the facility, and (5) NMED approval or denial.

2. Team Approach. NMED will appoint Facility Managers for LANL (T. Davis) and SNL (S. Kruse). The FMs will utilize a pool of staff support (approximately four persons). S. Dinwiddie will personally retain review responsibility for work that is substantially complete, e.g., the LANL MDA-P Closure Plan, and the LANL NFA permit modification requests submitted in FY 1995, for which he is preparing the statement of basis.

3. Priority for Work. NMED will set as high priority that work that is supported by fees and by the EPA grant. Other work will be conducted as time permits. The EPA grant for FY 1997 has not been signed, and is expected to be signed by the end of October. At that time, the facilities will request copies of the priority lists.

4. Interactions Between NMED and Facilities.

a. Mail. Two copies of all documents plus a disk are to be submitted to B. Garcia. NMED prefers the WordPerfect format, and will accept MSWord or PageMaker.



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b. Point of Contact. For NMED, the POC is the Facility Manager (FM). Each facility will appoint a POC to work with the FM. For LAAO, the assignment provisionally has been made to B. Koch. Each NMED team will maintain a calendar of work, and the facilities should contact the FM to arrange meetings or suggest revisions to priorities.

c. Technical Contacts. For LANL, the technical contacts (FPLs and FPCs) for specific work products are indicated in the transmittal letters to NMED. It is acceptable to NMED for the FPLs and FPCs to contact the FMs for routine technical, i.e., nonpolicy, matters.

d. Coordination Among NMED Bureaus. S. Dinwiddie is utilizing a team approach with the other NMED bureaus. S. Dinwiddie is the POC for interactions with the other bureaus. He will request support in writing and will receive comments, disapprovals and concurrences from the other bureaus in writing. (Note: LANL routinely sends copies of all correspondence and documents to SWQB, GWQB, and AIP.)

5. Role of AIP. AIP is invited to all meetings held by HRMB. AIP provides written comments to HRMB on documents, and generally submits the comments to the facilities at the same time. (Note: AIP is also invited to all weekly Field Unit meetings at LANL.)

6. Monthly Meetings. Two meetings will be held each month with each facility: a regularly scheduled general meeting on policy (held jointly with waste management), and a specially scheduled meeting on technical issues. The regularly scheduled meeting will be held (to the extent possible) in conjunction with the monthly meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Board (second Tuesday of each month for the LANL CAB). All meeting schedules and agendas will be coordinated with NMED by the facility POCs.

7. S. Dinwiddie Authority. B. Garcia reported that S. Dinwiddie has full responsibility and authority to make recommendations for the DOE facilities. B. Garcia has signature authority on correspondence.

8. Preferred Format for NFA. A letter will be sent by NMED on October 11, 1996 to the facilities. The letter will provide NMED's preference for backup information to be included in NFA proposals. The guidance will follow the general guidelines contained in the Document of Understanding, will be more detailed than the DOU, and will be consistent with SNL's last submittal. (NMED requested a disk of the last NFA permit modification request.)

9. Proposed Fee Schedule. A fee policy and schedule has been drafted, and is pending legal review. NMED may utilize the Institute of Public Law at UNM for this review, as NMED attorneys are overloaded. The fee basis in the policy is cost recovery for work performed. The fee will be assessed at the time the review work is performed, regardless of when the document was submitted. Approval of a fee policy is not expected this fiscal year.

10. Document Review by AIP. AIP comments on documents are technical comments. Facilities are encouraged to review the comments as they are received, but to take no action on them until a regulatory notice has been issued (concurred in by B. Garcia and E. Kelley).

11. AIP Public Meetings. Concern was expressed regarding potential AIP statements at the public meetings regarding AIP comments on documents that have not been reviewed by HRMB. It was agreed that E. Kelley, J. Vozella, and N. Weber should discuss this matter.

Laboratory Status Update

1. Document Backlog. M. Jackson and T. Taylor presented graphic and tabular information on the backlog of documents that had been submitted to EPA or NMED and that had not been approved. For LANL, the following summary information was presented:

Document	Submitted	Approved	NMED Action	Facility Action
Work Plan	29	25	3	1
RFI Report	55	4	46	5
Cleanup Report	9	0	9	0
Permit Mod	3	0	3	0
TOTAL	96	29	61	6

For review of the "backlog" documents, S. Dinwiddie reported that (1) EPA has the lead if the document was submitted prior to January 2, 1996, and NMED has the lead if the document was submitted after that date, and (2) that the "workshare" agreement between EPA and NMED determines which agency will conduct the initial review. NMED is the administrative authority for all HSWA activities. It was suggested that the EPA "Steam Team" might be able to assist in document review. The Steam Teams are set up for short periods of time, e.g., 90 days, with specific resources assigned to complete projects.

W. Cox indicated that SNL will prioritize deliverables for review as they are submitted, and would facilitate NMED review.

T. Taylor suggested four ways the LANL ER Project could assist NMED in conducting document reviews: (1) provide technical liaison with NMED reviewers, by having technical staff on call to respond to inquiries; (2) facilitate development of a library of correspondence and documents; (3) provide information on potential release sites by scheduling site visits, preparing videotapes, and providing copies of supplemental information, such as field notes; and (4) hold documents which are scheduled for submittal in FY 1997 until the ecorisk approach has been approved and initial ecorisk screening exercise has been completed, which will occur in March 1997.

2. Ecorisk Approaches. M. Jackson and T. Taylor presented summary information on the status of ecorisk approaches. KAO has begun documentation of an approach, and is preparing a position paper on ecoevaluation of radiological constituents. SNL expects most sites to be submitted for NFA following an initial screening. SNL also has completed a NEPA environmental assessment for ER activities (assessment and remediation), and expects to use some of the data supporting the EA in the ecorisk analysis.

LAAO has completed most of the 15-step approach currently under development with NMED and EPA. Monthly meetings are scheduled for the next five months to discuss and reach agreement on the components of the approach. The first meeting will be held on October 23, 1996, and will cover COPECs and the LANL approach to ecorisk for radiological constituents. A white paper on this approach will be submitted next week for NMED review. LANL expects to conduct ecorisk analysis in FY 1997 on all of the approximately 1,200 sites that have been submitted for NFA based on human health considerations, and on all sites for which documents will be submitted in FY 1997.

S. Dinwiddie suggested that the facilities use the same ecorisk approach, while recognizing that there are substantial differences in environmental setting between the two facilities. It was also agreed to set up a joint meeting with NMED and the facilities in January 1997.

Fiscal Year 1997 Budget and Baselines

R. Sena reported that the FY 1997 budget allocations have been made by DOE-HQ. The LANL and SNL allocations are \$46M and \$19M, respectively. B. Twining has sent a memorandum to A. Alm, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, requesting reconsideration of the allocation. AL has received a 47% reduction in funding for FY 1997, when compared to the budget request. This is a far larger reduction than at any other DOE office.

R. Sena also reported that the Ten Year Plan (TYP) public meeting will be held in Santa Fe on October 24, 1996. It was reported that the SNL CAB has expressed concerns to DOE and the Congress about the TYP, and that interactions are occurring with Senator Domenici's office. It was also reported that EPA priorities, as stated in the draft grant commitments, are different from DOE's.

T. Taylor reported that the LANL Baseline Replan will be available by October 18, 1996, and that it will be discussed at the October 23, 1996 regular monthly meeting with NMED.

Facility Presentations on Streamlined Approaches to RFI

The facilities presented nearly identical approaches to streamlining the RFI process. The streamlining follows EPA's Superfund Accelerated Cleanup Model (SACM), would reduce the amount of intermediate paperwork, and would allow the facilities to proceed through the end of

the process with minimal interruption. The streamlining would provide for regulator review and approval at the beginning and the end of the RFI process, and constitutes a "one pass" process. The approaches involve (1) submitting initial work plans for sites for regulator review and approval; (2) conducting work at sites until the sites are suitable for recommendation for NFA, then submitting documentation to support NFA; (3) submitting NFA permit modification requests following regulator review of the NFA support documentation; (4) notifying the regulator on a monthly basis of the project status; and (5) submitting proposed modifications to work plans only for major deviations from the work initially proposed.

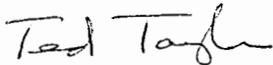
LANL also indicated that a request would be submitted to modify the permit by eliminating the requirement for a quarterly report.

DOU Adherence Issues

A general discussion was held regarding the Document of Understanding, which is a guidance document, and which will now also be used by the Department of Defense. It was generally agreed that all parties are following the DOU, and that additional training sessions should be held as new staff are added to each organization. The earlier training sessions were videotaped, and the tapes could be used in the training sessions.

The desirability of developing additional DOU annexes was discussed. These include (1) the streamlined approach; (2) non-HSWA regulations, including water quality regulations; (3) waste management; and (4) ecological risk. It was agreed to ask the Core Team to hold a conference call in early November 1996 to discuss these potential annexes. E. Kelley requested a list of the Core Team participants.

A discussion was held on developing metrics to measure the effectiveness of the DOU. It was agreed that DOE-AL would take the lead in developing the metrics.



Prepared by Ted Taylor

October 13, 1996