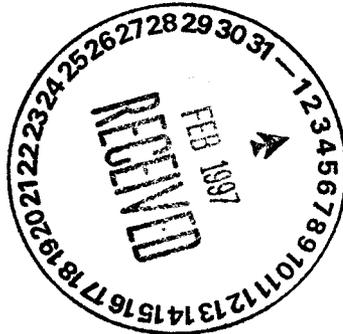


**University of California**  
 Environmental Restoration Project, MS M992  
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545  
 505-667-0808/FAX 505-665-4747



**U. S. Department of Energy**  
 Los Alamos Area Office, MS A316  
 Environmental Restoration Program  
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544  
 505-667-7203/FAX 505-665-4504



Date: January 28, 1997  
 Refer to: EM/ER:97-018

Mr. Benito Garcia  
 NMED-HRMB  
 P.O. Box 26110  
 Santa Fe, NM 87502

**SUBJECT: MINUTES FOR MONTHLY MEETING WITH HRMB**

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Enclosed please find a copy of the minutes pertaining to the Environmental Restoration (ER) portion of the meeting held in Santa Fe on December 11, 1996, with members of your staff, Oversight Bureau staff, and personnel from Los Alamos National Laboratory's ER Project. The minutes have been reviewed by your staff and their comments have been incorporated.

Should you have any questions, please call Dave at (505) 667-0819 or Bonnie at (505) 665-7202

Sincerely,

David McInroy, Compliance Manager  
 LANL/ER Project

Sincerely,

Bonnie Koch, Compliance Manager  
 DOE/LAEO

DM/BK/rfr

Enclosure: December 11, 1996, Monthly Meeting Minutes with HRMB

HSWA LANL 6/M/N



TC

Cy (w/ enc.):

M. Ebinger, EES-15, MS J495  
J. Ellvinger, ESH-19, MS K490  
R. Ferenbaugh, EES-15, MS J495  
P. Shanley, ESH-19, MS K498  
T. Glatzmaier, DDEES/ER, MS M992  
D. Griswold, AL-ERD, MS A906  
J. Jansen, EM/ER, MS M992  
B. Koch, LAAO, MS A316  
D. McInroy, EM/ER, MS M992  
J. Plum, LAAO, MS A316  
T. Taylor, LAAO, MS A316  
T. Todd, LAAO, MS A316  
RPF, MS M707

M. Chacon, NMED-HRMB  
T. Davis, NMED-HRMB  
R. Dinwiddie, NMED-HRMB  
R. Ford-Schmed, NMED-OB  
K. Hill, NMED-HRMB  
S. Hoines, NMED-HRMB  
M. Kieling, NMED-OB  
M. Kieling, NMED-HRMB  
T. Michael, NMED-OB  
J. Rogers, NMED-GWQB  
S. Zappe, NMED-HRMB

Cy (w/o enc.):

J. Levings, DOE-AL, MS A906  
T. Baca, EM, MS J591  
EM/ER File, MS M992

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Attendees:

NMED: Stu Dinwiddie\*, Teri Davis, Michael Chacon, Michael Kieling, Kim Hill (EPA), Martyne Kieling (DOE/OB)

LANL: Bonnie Koch (DOE), Dave McInroy (UC), Pat Shanley (UC/ATK), Roger Ferenbaugh\*, (UC), Michael Ebinger (UC).

\* Present during sections of meeting

**General Announcement:** Teri Davis is now the DOE Facility Manager (Stu Dinwiddie's former position). Michael Kieling is now the LANL manager (Teri Davis' former position).

Agenda: Five Items

**1. List of Prioritized Documents for EPA Review**

LANL indicated to NMED that LANL's review preference is for the regulators to start with the most recent submittal and work back. LANL's rationale for this is that the most recent submittals best reflect LANL's approach to various issues. NMED indicated that they would certainly consider this but their most important criteria for review was whether or not the documents were identified on the EPA grant. Grant documents, as well as environmental hazards, will be highest priority for NMED, followed by permit submittals (and modifications), and then LANL priorities.

This represents a closed action item for LANL (D. McInroy)

**2. Accelerated RFI Process**

NMED indicated that the previous "draft" flow diagram was acceptable to NMED management.

LANL indicated that changes were suggested by LANL management. LANL presented their suggested changes.

Below follows a synopsis of the long conversation that ensued.

When is a new SAP required? LANL indicated that they view a new SAP as being required when further field work to be conducted can no longer "fit" under the existing SAP. Examples of this are: the SSHAP or DQOs must be changed.

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Box 2. NMED indicated that the PTS needs to identify when the RFI is initiated. Kim Hill met with Art Tamayo on November 20, 1996, on the possibilities for revising the PTS.

Box 5. NMED indicated that it is necessary the Administrative Authority approve an NFA prior to including it in a permit modification. LANL indicated that if a lot of time had passed and NMED had not provided comment, LANL may include it in a permit modification request.

General Comment: NMED indicated that an asterisk or footnote is needed where NOD loops exist. LANL agreed and also indicated that this could be expounded on in the text for the flow chart.

LANL expressed concern that NMED would add PRSs to the permit at Box 5. It is LANL's position that NMED has had previous opportunities to add the units to the permit, especially during the RFI work plan review. NMED indicated that prior to receipt of analytical data, enough information may not be available to warrant placement of a unit on the permit. Discussion on this topic indicated that prior to adding a PRS to the permit, a review cycle (e.g., an NOD) would be sent to LANL requesting additional documentation for NFA. NMED indicated that adding units to the permit is a worst case scenario.

The need for regulatory oversight when additional sampling is needed was further discussed. In general, when changes are insignificant, no formal revision is necessary. When analytical data is received (after initial field work completed) and additional samples are necessary, a new SAP would not be prepared if the sampling could fit under the existing framework (SAP, DQOs, SSHAP, etc.). However, NMED wants notification 10 days prior to field work and that additional sampling activity be identified in the PTS. All new SAP will be submitted to NMED for review. SAPs which are written as a result of significant changes will be commented on by NMED.

NMED indicated that the determination of whether or not a new SAP is subject to NMED review is being based solely on LANL's judgment. To ensure that this occurs in an appropriate fashion, NMED indicated that they will conduct audits of this decision process.

NMED does not want to use the term VCA unless it fits the DOU VCA description. The terms accelerated cleanup or accelerated action are more acceptable and in keeping with the DOU VCA description and the proposed subpart S language. It was generally accepted that the term accelerated cleanup would be used instead of accelerated action to avoid any possible acronym confusion between administrative authority (AA) and accelerated action.

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NMED indicated that they would accept LANL proceeding with VCAs that meet the DOU description without prior approval. They indicated that this process could be audited by NMED to ensure that LANL is employing the proper criteria for conducting VCAs.

A lengthy discussion on when NMED approval was needed for all other accelerated cleanups occurred. NMED indicated that they need to be involved in some accelerated cleanups: it is determining which ones that is problematic. The problem is NMED has limited resources and cannot review every LANL action prior to its occurrence. To facilitate NMED's decision as to whether or not they want involvement in an accelerated cleanup, a trial run, or pilot concept was proposed. The first pilot will occur during the regularly scheduled monthly meetings. LANL will provide NMED with information on several accelerated cleanups scheduled for 1997. The information will include a fact sheet on the unit and a briefing. Based on this information, NMED will determine if they want a site visit or not. It is believed that some of these will not be of sufficient concern for NMED to commit resources to and LANL may proceed. Units that NMED indicates a visit is warranted will be scheduled for a site visit. After the site visit, NMED will determine if they want to review the action plan or if LANL should proceed without NMED participation.

NMED indicated that the benefit of NMED reviewing or screening plans prior to enactment will help eliminate additional work at the unit in the future if NMED cannot accept cleanup levels or approach. Additionally, providing NMED with a briefing on each unit that is proposed for accelerated action will limit the documents being submitted to NMED for formal review.

The flow diagram was altered to go from Box 8 to a VCA? box, to a box requiring a presentation on the accelerated action to NMED. If NMED elects to conduct a formal review, an accelerated action plan will be submitted to them. NMED will have 45 days to review the plan. If no comments are received, LANL may proceed at risk with the accelerated cleanup. LANL will engage the public prior to plan implementation. If NMED determines that a formal review is not warranted, based on the presentation, LANL will draft a accelerated cleanup plan, submit it to NMED for informational purposes, and proceed with public involvement and plan implementation.

As part of the above discussion, issues on the idea of an ecorisk working group arose. T. Davis clearly stated that LANL does NOT dictate the contents of the meeting. NMED must also approve or think topics have merit and they can request agenda items.

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**3. List of Correspondence for HRMB**

D. McInroy provided NMED a list of outgoing correspondence and a copy of the correspondence to NMED and EPA. D. McInroy indicated that the list of incoming correspondence was more difficult to obtain, due to the way incoming mail at LANL may be distributed. D. McInroy indicated that the list was probably not complete and provided copied of all incoming correspondence on the list to NMED. He indicated that the incoming list should be completed prior to Dec.

25. NMED expressed interest in the receiving copies of all incoming correspondence as soon as possible.

**Action:** D. McInroy will provide NMED with correspondence to LANL via fax and submit a finalized version of mail received in January 1997.

**4. Statusing Segment**

**4a. 0-016 VCA**

NMED indicated that this site is under S. Dinwiddie's lead due to previous EPA involvement. LANL indicated that there was no longer a need to move the soil off-site as new management methods have been found. LANL intends to use another separation technique and/or an asphalt drier prior to placing soil in shaker plan. No action is needed by NMED and LANL will proceed with new soil management methods.

**4b. 16-021(c)**

LANL provided a fact sheet on the bore holes installed at 16-021(c). D. McInroy provided a brief update on what had been encountered in the third borehole at the unit. Information on the third bore hole is not final as the bore hole is not completed.

4c. The agenda item suggested earlier in the meeting was skipped due to time constraints.

**5. Ecorisk Briefing on Food Webs**

Mike Ebinger and Roger Ferenbaugh presented information on the receptors selected for various eco exposure units. Information was passed out for inclusion in the ecorisk notebook. The process was described as identifying: functional group categories; critical ecological attributes necessary to protect biological diversity; and identifying functional/trophic groups necessary to maintain critical ecological functions. Functional relationships must then be defined and sorted based on LANL species. Receptors are then selected and

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finally assessment endpoints are selected. The concept of using primarily terrestrial animals was also explained.

NMED indicated that Susan Hoines (NMED) has been delegated the authority to determine acceptance or rejection of ecorisk approaches. NMED wants to establish a working group for eco risk due to the large amount of information involved. It was agreed that S. Hoines and R. Ferenbaugh would determine when a meeting to start the ecorisk work group could be initiated and that this group would discuss conclusions or recommendations prior to the NMED/ER technical monthly meeting.

**Action:** Kim Hill requested the list of all receptors per each eco unit. R. Ferenbaugh will provide this information.

The discussion of January's agenda indicated that the following should be covered: Pilot of accelerated actions, reviving permit modification meetings, and updates on work in progress at LANL.