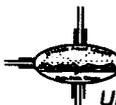


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 Environmental  
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Date: March 25, 1997  
 Refer to: EM/ER:97-083

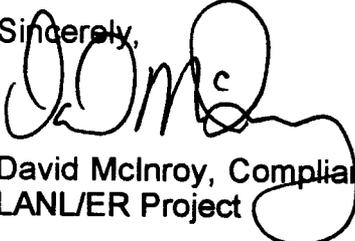
Mr. Benito Garcia  
 NMED-HRMB  
 P.O. Box 26110  
 Santa Fe, NM 87502

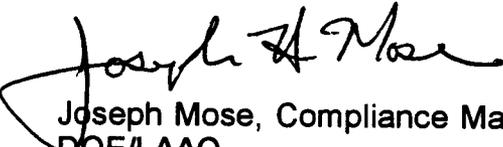
**SUBJECT: MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 1997 MONTHLY MEETING WITH HRMB**

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Enclosed please find a copy of the meeting minutes pertaining to the meeting held in Santa Fe on February 26, 1997, between staff members of the Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau and members from Los Alamos National Laboratory's Environmental Restoration Project. The minutes have been reviewed by your staff and their comments have been incorporated.

Should you have any questions, please contact Dave McInroy at (505) 667-0819 or Joe Mose at (505) 667-5808.

Sincerely,  
  
 David McInroy, Compliance Manager  
 LANL/ER Project

Sincerely,  
  
 Joseph Mose, Compliance Manager  
 DOE/LAO

DM/JM/rfr

HSWA, LANL G/M/N 1997

TL



Enclosure: February 26, 1997, Minutes for Monthly Meeting with HRMB

Cy (w/ enc.):

J. Ellvinger, ESH-19, MS K490  
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. Mose, LAAO, MS A316  
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-Schmid, NMED-OB  
K. Hill, NMED-HRMB  
S. Hoines, NMED-HRMB  
M. Kieling, NMED-OB  
J. 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

**Meeting Minutes**  
**ER Portion Monthly Meeting with NMED HRMB**  
**February 26, 1997**

**Attendees:**

NMED: Teri Davis, John Kieling, Michael Chacon,

LANL: Bonnie Koch (DOE), David McInroy (LANL), Pat Shanley (LANL/ATK),

NMED and LANL had additional topics to add to the agenda, to get to if time allowed. These topics were: Possible Release Notification for PRS 16-021(c); Eco-Risk Meeting; Denial of Extension Request for TA-39 RFI Report; PTS Report; Status of HSWA PRSs on Database; Building 27, V Site VCA; Septic Tank Policy and/or Procedures; Meetings prior to issuance of an NOD

**Agenda Item 1. Corrective Action Plan:**

B. Koch indicated that NMED comments had been incorporated into the text of the accelerated corrective action plan.

NMED had the additional comments:

1. Add a brief statement addressing the RFA portion of the corrective action process. This needs to be added to completely address all components of the RCRA corrective action process.
2. Remove footnote 2 from page 1 and place it on Steps 8a and 14. The reason for this is to keep review of the initial RFI work plan separate from VCA plan review due to review timeframes.
3. In Step 7, adequate archival data is not an option for obtaining NFAs. The wording was changed to indicate "existing" instead of adequate archival data. This will be changed in Step 8, bullet 4.
4. Add a footnote to Step 2 to indicate that the Administrative Authority may consider characterization during an accelerated cleanup removal that is in accordance with an approved work plan. NMED indicated situations where this would not be considered, especially MDAs.

LANL needs to address the above in VCA fact sheets, when applicable.

NMED indicated that in the future, it may be necessary to look at the status of each SWMU to determine where it should be placed in the schedule of compliance.

5. In Step 8, bullet one, change the language back to include the DOU verbiage of "previously determined risk-based levels".

LANL had modified this language to allow the use of established preliminary remediation goals to be varied at a site to allow more flexibility. The cleanups may not use the exact, established PRG if the evaluated site-specific risk factors are determined to be lower, or higher, the "modified" PRG would allow cleanup to an acceptable risk level. D. McInroy mentioned that PRGs (previously determined) will not exist for those sites with multiple constituents.

It was agreed that both previously established and site-specific risk based levels would be used in the text. NMED requested that a footnote be inserted to indicate where DOU language is modified.

6. Step 8, Bullet 2. Insert "potential" prior to remedy.
7. Step 9. Insert the DOU VCA criteria language.
8. Example 1, Step 3. Strike VCA or RFI and insert Final Report.
9. Example 2. Strike significant before decrease. NMED gave the example of sampling where only one sample was to be dropped, but it represented 50 percent of the samples.

**Action Item:**

B. Koch will incorporate all changes and fax to NMED by 2/28. D. McInroy will attempt to submit the final, formally edited version to NMED by March 12, with a final date of March 21, 1997. The accelerated corrective action process has been completed.

NMED and LANL recognize that this process needs to be incorporated in the permit and in the Installation Work Plan. NMED will take this process to all other facilities.

NMED and LANL agreed that the next time such an effort is undertaken, ground rules will be established such as the number of times the work will be addressed in meetings, amount of time per meeting, due date, or project dropped.

**Agenda Item 2. Interim Actions and Interim Measures**

LANL has received NMED's letter on interim measures.

LANL requested clarification on what NMED viewed as simple and complex. A fence around a site would be a simple interim measure and a cover would be a complex interim measure. Interim measures must be obvious. LANL indicated concern that all simple obvious actions would become reportable interim measures.

NMED indicated that all stabilization efforts go into RCRIS, the national RCRA data base. NMED indicated that they interpret the term interim measure broadly.

LANL indicated that they implement interim measures or best management practices in situations where it is beneficial to do so. The Field Units have some contingency

money which allow them to do BMPs or interim measures. Interim measures which require plans are not implemented until the plan is complete.

HRMB indicated that they had concerns with the TA-18 Interim Action, but did not for the TA-35 Interim Action Report (35-003 d, l, q)

NMED indicated that they do not need involvement with BMPs employed at PRSs but did want a list of all BMPs completed to date in order to enter them into RCRIS. HRMB requested that this list be submitted semi-annually.

D. McInroy indicated that currently there are two types of circumstances where BMPs are needed. In situations where they keep runoff/runoff from sites and to fix existing problems (e.g., source removal or site stabilization).

All agreed that stabilization measures are the umbrella under which interim measures exist and that LANL's BMPs and Interim actions are subsets of Interim Measures. Stabilization activities represent risk reduction, a mutual goal of NMED and LANL.

NMED wants as many interim measures identified as early as possible for their review and that they may be added to the schedule of compliance. LANL expressed concern that a surface water issue arises that requires an interim action, it was not previously identified, and HRMB has no resources to review an interim measure plan, and then the interim measure is found insufficient or LANL receives an NOD. HRMB did not believe this would occur due to the various NMED Bureaus (OB, Surface and Ground Water Quality) meeting to resolve their crosscutting issues or requirements. NMED intends to have a unified approach for corrective actions.

LANL expressed a desire to see the most straight forward regulation per each Bureau selected as a driver. There is concern as to the applicability of debris in a water course to PRSs.

NMED and LANL agreed that Interim measures can be planned or unexpectedly arise due to new information. Those which are scheduled will be required to be submitted to NMED for review. NMED will enter all stabilization activities in RCRIS and NMED is funded by EPA for the review. Plans for those which cannot be reviewed prior to implementation must still be submitted to NMED.

**Action Items:**

- 1). Dave will provide a list of BMPs completed to date for PRSs by March 18, 1997.
- 2) LANL will prepare draft language that differentiates between BMPs and interim measures that could be used as a basis for a DOU annex, IWP language, and/or possible permit language.
- 3) LANL and NMED recognize that no concurrence has been reached regarding how the effectiveness of Interim Measures will be determined.

- 4) S. Dinwiddie was briefly present during the meeting and was asked if a meeting to discuss the language that needs to align the permit and DOU could be held. S. Dinwiddie agreed.

### **3. Agenda Item 4. Baseline for NOD Response**

D. McInroy provided a list of Field Unit 1 documents (24 total) that might receive an NOD this fiscal year. The NOD response activities are budgeted for 364K which may not be used because NODs are not received. LANL would like to utilize that money in the most effective manner. If the NODs are not issued, LANL could use the money for Interim Measures, initiate other field work, etc. LANL is also concerned that if the money is not used, it could be retracted from LANL and given to another facility. LANL requested if there is a way NMED could let LANL know their review schedule so LANL could determine if the money would be used for NOD response or could be used for another activity.

NMED requested that the site ranking score be added in column format to the table, that this information be compiled for each field unit, and that the tables present the reports in chronological order, with the most recently submitted at the top of the table, since LANL has indicated that the most recently submitted have highest review priority to LANL.

NMED indicated that they are reviewing the most recent document first. LANL could use that as well as the list of documents NMED has indicated are their highest priority (e.g., grant commitments).

T. Davis suggested that a standing agenda item for NODs be established. Each month NMED could inform LANL of which NODs were about to be issued or were in preparation.

NMED indicated the following NODs will be delivered to LANL in the near future:

1. TA-18 RFI Report. This NOD will require a separate ground water investigation for lower Pajarito Canyon. NMED is applying an area of contamination approach.
2. Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyon RFI Work Plan. NMED is directing LANL to install a regional groundwater monitoring well near Test Well 4. The Hydrological Work Plan for the site does not address a well in this location in the near future.
3. RFI Reports for: TAs-20, 53, and 72; TA-35; TA-50; and TAs 8 and 9.

NMED indicated that the list of proposed reviews would assist coordination with EPA. It may also assist LANL in identifying budget that may be used to address NOD requirements not budgeted for this fiscal year.

**Action Item:**

McInroy will supply a table, per field unit, in chronological order, with the SRS of units by March 13. Dave indicated additional time may be needed as this information is not easily extracted from the baseline or field unit data bases.

**4. Agenda Item 3: Requirements for NFA**

Kim Hill indicated that a letter addressing the requirement that LANL meet other Bureaus criteria prior to HRMB granting an NFA is pending. She requested that if the letter is in any way unclear, LANL should request clarification.

Due to the discussion under Agenda Item 2 of Surface Water issues, there was no additional discussion on this topic.

The agenda items identified earlier in the meeting were addressed

**5. Agenda Item 5. Status of HSWA Units.**

NMED requested clarification on where the explanation on the data presentation was on the PRS data base that was provided in January. LANL indicated that in the letter sent to NMED on February 10, 1997 should address that. The letter transmits LANL's understanding of the schedule of compliance. NMED will review that table to determine if it meets their needs.

**6. NMED - Correspondence Data Base**

K. Hill gave D. McInroy a marked copy of the list of LANL/NMED correspondence LANL prepared per HRMB's request. The marked items are those not present in HRMB files. K. Hill indicated that the list is incomplete. D. McInroy said that may be due to the sort performed to generate the list. He requested a list of correspondence requiring a response. NMED will provide their correspondence database when complete and flag for LANL those not on the correspondence list generated by LANL.

**Action Item:**

D. McInroy will provide copies of those marked items to NMED by next meeting, April 2.

**7. Agenda Item 7. TA-39 RFI Report Extension Request Denial**

NMED indicated that the Report is one of their grant commitment for review.

LANL indicated that the RFI Report is complete except for the summary and recommendation portions of the report. These were not going to be completed until the eco-risk approach was finalized and employ that to write these sections. FU 3 believes they can submit the report by the March 7 due date, but it will be problematic for internal (DOE/LANL) review timeframes.

### **8. Agenda Item 7. Building 27/ V Site VCM**

NMED is drafting a letter to LANL indicating they should proceed with a VCM at the site. HRMB cannot be as actively involved due to other LANL commitments. AIP will serve as a reviewer of the Plan and activities and keep HRMB informed. NMED indicated that as stated when the VCA Briefing was held, this cleanup is not a VCA but a VCM and a plan must be formally submitted to NMED.

### **9. Release Notification for PRS 16-021(c)**

LANL clarified a discussion between T. Davis, D. McInroy and P. Shanley on November 27, 1996. LANL had called to let HRMB know that water encountered during drilling a borehole in PRS 16-021(c) reacted strongly to an HE Spot Test. LANL indicated that they would inform HRMB when fixed lab analytical was received from this zone.

Field Unit 3 decided to complete the borehole as a monitoring well. Several attempts have been made to collect a groundwater sample from the well but it has not produced water. It is unclear at this time if the lack of water is attributable to the cessation of Building 260 discharge.

Samples of groundwater, therefore, have not been collected and analyzed. LANL has just completed data validation and quality assurance on the sample collected in November from the saturated surge bed. The surge bed is highly contaminated with HE.

P. Shanley requested clarification if this was a reportable release from a SWMU under Module VIII, as this type of information was not considered required to be reported by EPA. EPA did not require notification of a release when contamination was known to exist at a site and sampling results were viewed as characterization information, not reporting information. Additionally, the 4,500 mg/kg RDX is not a statistically significant increase of contamination found at the unit because the HE contamination at the surface is at least one order of magnitude greater than that found at depth.

K. Hill asked if LANL had notified of a release when the results of the surface sampling was done. LANL indicated that they had not notified because it was not required in the past and the contamination was expected. NMED indicated that they considered the surface sampling results reportable. P. Shanley verbally provided the analytical results from the 15 to 17 foot surge zone obtained from Field Unit 3 (Don Hickmott).

#### **Action Item:**

LANL will submit a written release notification within 15 days (March 12) and include the analytical results from the surface and below grade sampling.

LANL expressed concern that this is an overly prescriptive reporting requirement. What if LANL detects 1 ppb or less of TCE? There is no background for this constituent, potentially making this detection reportable. If this type of criteria is used, quite a bit of time will be spent, by LANL and NMED, in preparing and potentially

responding to release notifications. LANL indicated that NMED would be getting a lot of paper work on this. NMED noted and understood LANL's concern and indicated they would address this internally and may also address it in their combined Bureau meetings.

#### **10. Agenda Item 9. Eco-Risk Meeting**

B. Koch indicated that she will fax the list of topics to NMED for the meeting. LANL estimates that it will take three hours to present the data and four hours if a question and answer period is allowed. Due to an estimated 17 or more attendees from LANL and NMED, a room at the Runnels Building will be sought by J. Kieling. NMED indicated that EPA should be present and will try to get their attendance.

#### **The following topics will be added to next months agenda:**

PTS Report; Septic Tank Policy and/or Procedure, and Meetings prior to issuance of NODs, and possibly Correspondence Issues.

Briefly, K. Hill indicated that LANL appears to be inconsistent on the approach taken at septic tanks and is looking for criteria on the approach. Also, the Subject Line on correspondence is commonly uninformative. NMED suggests that the line include, at a minimum, the PRS or issue addressed, the type of correspondence (e.g., NOD response); who information pertains to.

Also, T. Davis indicated that NMED is interested in obtaining the position papers LANL has written on various topics. B. Koch indicated that the position papers are now PCT Policy memos. Follow-up is needed to determine if LANL will provide a controlled copy of the PCT Notebook to NMED.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 2, 8:30 am.

T. Davis requested that some VCA briefings be provided. (D. McInroy has the action to submit to NMED a list of all VCAs planned for this year)