



State of New Mexico  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**DOE OVERSIGHT BUREAU**  
 P.O. Box 1663, MS/J-993  
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545



GARY JOHNSON  
 GOVERNOR

MARK E. WEIDLER  
 SECRETARY

June 9, 1998

Mr. Mat Johansen, AIP POC  
 U.S. Department of Energy  
 Los Alamos Area Office  
 528 35th Street, MS A316  
 Los Alamos, NM 87544

RE: Inspection Observations and Recommendations concerning Spill Closures at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

Dear Mr. Johansen:

DOE OB and LANL ESH-18 staff completed non-regulatory inspections of the following spill locations on the indicated dates. DOE OB observations and recommendations for these spills are listed on the attachment. These inspections were requested by ESH-18 and a copy of this correspondence will be transmitted to the ESH-18 Group Leader.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Dennis Romero, of our staff, at 672-0459.

Sincerely,

*Stephen Yanicak*

Steve Yanicak, LANL POC  
 Department of Energy Oversight Bureau

SY:dr

cc w/o attachments:

John Parker, NMED, Chief, DOE OB

RECEIVED

JUN 09 1998

DOE OVERSIGHT BUREAU



HSWA CAROL G/M/S/98

12

Page 2  
June 9, 1998  
Mr. Mat Johansen

cc w/attachments:

~~Steve Dimmitt~~, NMED, Program Manager, HRMB  
Barbara Hoditscheck, NMED, SWQB  
Ralph Ford-Schmid, NMED, DOE OB  
Steve Rae, LANL, Group Leader, ESH-18, MS K497  
Harvey Decker, ESH-18, MS K497

c:\...\splclse.98.1.bak.wpd (ltr. 6-2-98)

### DOE OB Inspection List of Observations and Recommendations

---

RELEASE ID NUMBER: Not listed in 1203 report

LOCATION: TA-53 Lift Station #3

DATE OF SPILL: 9-28-95

DATE OF INSPECTION: 6-1-98

CORRECTIVE ACTION: The spill involved a raw sewage discharge of approximately 2000 gallons due to bolt failure on a check valve. The sewage did flow into Sandia Canyon via a storm water drainage. The sanitary waste was cleaned up by JCI personnel and taken to SWCS for disposal via a sewage truck. The area was disinfected with chlorine. No PRS's or SWMU's were affected.

STATUS: The spill has been fully remediated.

RECOMMENDATION: The DOE OB recommends closure for this spill. No further action is necessary.

---

RELEASE ID NUMBER: 27

LOCATION: TA-3 Lift Station #1836

DATE OF SPILL: 12-29-97

DATE OF INSPECTION: 6-1-98

CORRECTIVE ACTION: This release involved approximately 300 gallons of cooling water due to the loss of power from a lift station. There appeared to be no solids in the discharge; however, the area was disinfected as a precautionary measure. The facility is examining the feasibility of redesigning the pump and alarm systems to ensure that a discharge of this type is not repeated. None of the water discharged appeared to reach Sandia Canyon. No erosional impacts present.

STATUS: The spill has been remediated.

RECOMMENDATION: The DOE OB recommends closure for this spill. Upon examining the site, DOE OB personnel noticed that the culvert that drains this area discharges

into a small ravine located perilously close to the following electrical boxes and junctions: TA 3-1332, TA 3-1315, and TA 3-1840. If storm water runoff is high enough, this could create a serious safety problem due to the proximity of these boxes to an active drainage path.

---

RELEASE ID NUMBER: 6

LOCATION: TA 3 Bldg 470 Parking Lot

DATE OF SPILL: 5-20-97

DATE OF INSPECTION: 6-1-98

CORRECTIVE ACTION: This release involved approximately 3 gallons of diesel fuel spilled from a delivery truck. A rainfall event was occurring at the time of the spill. The response team surrounded the storm drains with absorbent pillows and applied Micro-Blaze to the affected area. However, LANL personnel noted that storm water with a slight sheen did travel into Mortandad Canyon. LANL personnel estimated that 3 to 5 acres of land may have been affected by this release.

STATUS: The spill has been remediated in the immediate area.

RECOMMENDATION: The DOE OB recommends closure for this spill. In addition, the OB recommends that the area down gradient of this storm water drainage be evaluated via AP 4.5 for erosional and contaminant transport potential.

---

RELEASE ID NUMBER: 12

LOCATION: TA 53 Bldg 63 Cooling Tower #62 Equipment Room

DATE OF SPILL: 6-20-97

DATE OF INSPECTION: 6-1-98

CORRECTIVE ACTION: This release involved approximately 35 gallons of a cooling water inhibitor (combination of 2-phosphonobutane-1,2,4-tricarboxylic acid and hydroxyacetic acid - pH of 2.8 to 3.2). The spill was due to a disconnected feed line. The spill occurred in Building 63, which has floor drains leading to Outfall # 03A048. The inhibitor drained to this outfall which discharges into Los Alamos Canyon. The chemical additive system was repaired.

STATUS: The inhibitor was likely diluted by the continuous discharge of cooling water to this outfall.

RECOMMENDATION: The DOE OB recommends closure for this spill. In addition, the OB recommends that the area down gradient of this outfall be evaluated via AP 4.5 for erosional and contaminant transport potential.

---

RELEASE ID NUMBER: 11

LOCATION: TA 53 Bldg 365 Equipment Storage Area

DATE OF SPILL: 6-10-97

DATE OF INSPECTION: 6-1-98

CORRECTIVE ACTION: This release involved approximately 150 gallons of dielectric oil. The oil was released from a transformer which broke during a move. The oil did not reach a nearby storm water drain. The storm water drain was surrounded by absorbent pillows. The soil in the affected area was excavated and removed. The remaining oil in the transformer was placed into a drum and removed from the area. Chemical analyses did not detect PCB's in the oil.

STATUS: The spill has been remediated.

RECOMMENDATION: The DOE OB recommends closure for this spill.

---

RELEASE ID NUMBER: 14

LOCATION: TA 60 Building 41 Equipment Storage Area

DATE OF SPILL: 6-24-97

DATE OF INSPECTION: 6-1-98

CORRECTIVE ACTION: This release involved approximately 25 gallons of aged diesel oil. The oil was released from a scrap UST during a move. The spill area is PRS 60-007 (a), an old parking and maintenance area which contains other releases of oil and grease. The contaminated soil and oil residue have been removed from the area.

STATUS: The spill has been remediated.

RECOMMENDATION: The DOE OB recommends closure for this spill. In addition, this and any other future spills at this site should be added to the site history of the RFI for this PRS.

---

RELEASE ID NUMBER: 5

LOCATION: TA 16 Building 450 Roadside  
DATE OF SPILL: 5-20-97  
DATE OF INSPECTION: 6-1-98  
CORRECTIVE ACTION: This release involved approximately 15 gallons of diesel fuel from a crane. The contaminated soil was removed and absorbent booms were placed around the spill. Micro-Blaze was applied to the affected area. A rainfall event began during response efforts. The absorbent booms appeared to prevent the spread of diesel.  
STATUS: The spill has been remediated.  
RECOMMENDATION: The DOE OB recommends closure for this spill.

---

RELEASE ID NUMBER: 29  
LOCATION: TA 50 Building 1 Parking lot north of WM-66  
DATE OF SPILL: 2-18-98  
DATE OF INSPECTION: 6-1-98  
CORRECTIVE ACTION: This release involved approximately 500 gallons of potable water. The leak was caused by a ruptured potable water line. The release occurred adjacent to WM-66, an underground secondary containment vault for influent holding tanks at TA-50. The spill was also upgradient of MDA-C. The water did not reach MDA-C or run into WM-66. Swipes taken immediately after the spill was isolated showed  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  levels at or below background.  
STATUS: The spill has been remediated.  
RECOMMENDATION: The DOE OB recommends closure for this spill.

---

RELEASE ID NUMBER: 30  
LOCATION: TA 48 Building 45 Manhole #52  
DATE OF SPILL: 2-19-98  
DATE OF INSPECTION: 6-1-98  
CORRECTIVE ACTION: This release involved approximately 600 gallons of domestic liquid waste. The leak was caused by a plugged line. The release occurred south of

Building 45. The spill was limited to 500 to 600 square feet and did not migrate off-site. The area was cleaned of all solids and disinfected with chlorine. The manhole was pumped with a vacuum truck and the blockage/plug was removed via a jet rodder.

STATUS: The spill has been remediated.

RECOMMENDATION: The DOE OB recommends closure for this spill.

---

RELEASE ID NUMBER: 31

LOCATION: TA 00 Guaje Replacement Well #1

DATE OF SPILL: 4-4-98

DATE OF INSPECTION: 6-1-98

CORRECTIVE ACTION: This release involved approximately 50 gallons of diesel. The leak was caused by a ruptured fuel line leading to a generator. The spill area was bermed immediately after the spill occurred. The contaminated soil was excavated and removed. Confirmation samples were non-detects. After the sample results were received, the excavated area was backfilled with clean sand.

STATUS: The spill has been remediated.

RECOMMENDATION: The DOE OB recommends closure for this spill.

---

RELEASE ID NUMBER: 33

LOCATION: TA 00 Guaje Replacement Well #3

DATE OF SPILL: 4-3-98

DATE OF INSPECTION: 6-1-98

CORRECTIVE ACTION: This release involved approximately 20,000 gallons of purged ground water. The spill occurred after a truck sheared a valve leading to a storage tank. The BMP's in the area were very effective in containing the water until it either infiltrated or evaporated. There are no contaminant concerns associated with this release; erosional impacts are negligible due to the effectiveness of the BMP's.

STATUS: The spill has been remediated.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The DOE OB recommends closure for this spill.

---

**RELEASE ID NUMBER:** 26

**LOCATION:** TA 00 Guaje Replacement Well #3

**DATE OF SPILL:** 11-28-97

**DATE OF INSPECTION:** 6-1-98

**CORRECTIVE ACTION:** This release involved approximately 2500 gallons of a mixture of water and drilling mud. The mud was allowed to freeze overnight and later removed with shovels and wheel barrels. Additional silt fences were installed in the area as a precautionary measure.

**STATUS:** The spill has been remediated.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The DOE OB recommended closeout in a letter dated January 9, 1998. However, DOE OB staff did want to re-inspect the site following spring runoff.

---