

Summary of TA-15 Site Visit – Search for SWMU 15-004(i)

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Purpose: Conduct field reconnaissance to locate SWMU 15-004(i)

Summary of Site Information:

Field reconnaissance was conducted on February 10, 2006 in an attempt to locate solid waste management unit (SWMU) 15-004(i), known as The Gulch Firing Site. Information available for this site describes the location of SWMU 15-004(i) as "one mile below R-Site". Reportedly, two test explosions were conducted at SWMU 15-004(i) in 1944. The tests consisted of up to 300 pounds of high explosives and 500 pounds of ammonium picrate which were detonated approximately 10 feet from a canyon wall to observe the damage to the canyon wall.

The 1993 RFI Work Plan for Operable Unit 1086 (LANL 1993, 20948, p. 5-13) recommended No Further Action (NFA) for SWMU 15-004(i) because of its unknown location. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) requested additional information on the nature of the tests, the specific contaminants involved, and details of methods employed to locate the site (NMED 1996, 55815, p. A-1). No additional information is available regarding the nature of the test and the specific contaminants involved. This document provides a record of the search conducted to find the site.

Summary of Search for Site:

R-Site is the former name of the facilities at Technical Area (TA)-15. TA-15 is east of, and adjacent to, TA-16. A short length of TA-15 (approximately one mile) is adjacent to Cañon de Valle, but the majority of TA-15 abuts Water Canyon (see Figure 1). The field reconnaissance included a search of the approximate one-mile stretch of Cañon de Valle adjacent to TA-15.

The search for the location of SWMU 15-004(i) focused on exposed, cliff-forming tuff adjacent to, or visible from, the canyon bottom. No signs of explosives testing (e.g., cratering in the canyon wall) were observed during the field reconnaissance.



References:

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). 1993. RFI Work Plan for Operable Unit 1082. Los Alamos national laboratory Report LA-UR-93-1196. Los Alamos, NM. (20948)

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). December 10, 1996. Notice of Determination, Requests for Permit Modification, Units Proposed for No Further Action March and September 1995. (55815)