

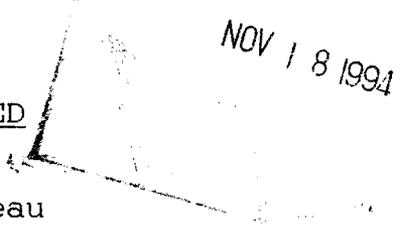


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Department of Energy
Field Office, Albuquerque
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

NOV 10 1994



CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
525 Camino de los Marquez
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Enclosed for your review is the fourth quarter progress report for the Transuranic Waste Inspectable Storage Project (TWISP) at Los Alamos National Laboratory. This report is required by Section IX.C of the December 10, 1993 three-party Consent Agreement pursuant to compliance orders 93-01, 93-02, 93-03, and 93-04. This report is being submitted by the Department of Energy's Los Alamos Area Office (LAAO) and the University of California.

The enclosed report includes activities related to TWISP during the reporting period of August 1, 1994 through October 31, 1994. The following elements, as required by the Consent Agreement, are addressed in the enclosed report:

1. A brief description of activities completed during the reporting period to implement the requirements of the Consent Agreement.
2. A brief description of activities scheduled for the following reporting period.
3. A description of any change in key project personnel which occurred during the reporting period.
4. A description of problems encountered during the reporting period and mechanisms used or proposed for resolving the problems.
5. Tables and figures summarizing all data, sampling and test results for the period.

Supporting documentation will be retained at LAAO and will be made available to your staff upon request.



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Benito Garcia

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call
Jon Mack of my staff at (505) 665-5026.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Vozella
Acting Assistant Area Manager
Office of Environment and
Projects

LAAMEP:9JM-104

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:

M. Baker, CST-14, LANL,
MS-J595

P. Schumann, CST-26, LANL,
MS-E539

cc w/o enclosure:

D. Erickson, ESH-DO, LANL,
MS-K491

J. White, ESH-19, LANL,
MS-K490

A. Gancarz, CST-DO, LANL,
MS-J515

A. Drypolcher, CST/WM, LANL,
MS-E517

R. Nevarez, WMD, AL

TRANSURANIC WASTE INSPECTABLE STORAGE PROJECT
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
AUGUST 1, 1994 - OCTOBER 31, 1994

The Transuranic (TRU) Waste Inspectable Storage Project (TWISP) was initiated in February 1993 in response to the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Compliance Order NMHWA 93-03. The TWISP involves the recovery of approximately 16,865 TRU and TRU-mixed waste containers currently under earthen cover on Pads 1, 2 and 4 at Technical Area (TA)-54, Area G, and placement of that waste into inspectable storage. All waste will be moved into inspectable storage by September 30, 2003. Waste recovery and storage operations will emphasize protection of worker safety, public health, and the environment.

I. Activities accomplished during the period August 1, 1994 through October 31, 1994.

1. Dome Construction Pending Approval of the Safety Evaluation Report

The draft Safety Evaluation Report (SER) detailing DOE's assessment of the Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) was published July 18, 1994. The technical accuracy review of the draft SER has been ongoing and is currently anticipated to be complete by November 4. A construction contractor has been selected, trained, and is prepared to begin work once the SER is finalized.

2. Waste Analysis Plan Development

Development of a revised waste analysis plan (WAP) defining a specific schedule for additional waste verification is ongoing. A special waste characterization tactical team has been established to evaluate regulatory requirements, analytical capabilities, data assessment, and other issues.

3. Fire Hazards Analysis

A Fire Hazards Analysis (FHA) documenting potential fire losses has been completed. As a result, additional fire protection systems are currently being incorporated into facility designs and will be included in the new domes as construction proceeds. Efforts will also be initiated to modify the RCRA permit to include a description of the upgraded fire protection systems.

4. Sampling in Support of Eventual Closure

In mid-April, soil samples were collected from various locations that will be disturbed as part of the TWISP. Analysis of these samples will provide a baseline of information for comparison when the planned storage facilities are eventually closed.

A preliminary assessment of data received to date have not identified organic or metal concentrations exceeding site-wide background except for a few common remnants from laboratory extraction.

5. Draft Program Plans and Operating Procedures in Review

Draft versions of a Health and Safety Plan, Quality Assurance Plan, and Project Management Plan have been prepared for the TWISP. These documents are in internal review and will be revised as a result of comments received.

6. Equipment Purchasing in Process

Equipment purchases necessary for safe waste recovery and storage are ongoing. The purchase of two forklifts has been approved and the purchase of a vacuum truck is nearing completion. The cost of these three items alone will be approximately \$500,000. UC anticipates that this equipment will be on site by March, 1995. Two on-site support trailers are currently being renovated in anticipation of retrieval operations. Procurement for the Drum Venting System and drum vents is currently underway.

7. Update on Waste Verification Facilities

Plans for developing new facilities for verifying the validity of existing process knowledge are ongoing. A brief description of planned facilities is provided below:

Waste Characterization Glovebox Phases I (sorting), II (coring), and III (head space analysis): Phase I final design review and detailed design have been completed and procurement is underway. Preliminary development of Phase II design criteria was initiated as were identification of potential sampling and analysis protocols.

Waste Characterization, Reduction, and Repackaging Facility (WCRRF) (formerly the Size Reduction Facility) upgrades for verification of hazardous constituents: Health and safety concerns for the WCRRF are in review. A purchase requisition is currently in place for a characterization glovebox.

Real-Time Radiography (RTR) for nonintrusive inspection of drum contents: procurement is underway, the RTR should be on-site by early 1995.

Segmented Gamma Scanner (SGS) to quantify isotopic content of drums: an SGS is currently being fabricated at the Laboratory and should be available by March 1995. Additional software will provide the SGS tomographic gamma scanning capabilities.

II. Activities scheduled for the period November 1, 1994 through January 31, 1995.

1. DOE will publish the Safety Evaluation Report and approve the PSAR.
2. Construction will be initiated for retrieval and storage facilities.
3. The enhanced environmental surveillance of the TRU Pad area will continue.
4. Reviews will continue for draft documentation such as the Project Management Plan, Container Recovery Safe Operating Procedures (SOPs), the Quality Assurance Plan, and the Health and Safety Plan. Additional draft SOPs may also be developed.
5. Major equipment procurements will continue.
6. Plans will continue for planned waste verification facilities.
7. Upgrades to the Drum Prep Facility will be completed in late-November.

III. Changes in key personnel during the period August 1, 1994 through October 31, 1994.

Ken Hargis resigned his position as the Laboratory's chief RCRA compliance officer. The acting replacement in this position is currently James White, ESH-19.

John Krueger resigned his position as the Laboratory's chief technical contact for the project. Mr. Krueger's replacement in this position is Michael Baker, CST-14.

IV. Problems encountered during the period August 1, 1994 through October 31, 1994.

Problem: Construction has been delayed pending approval of the preliminary SER.

Solution: DOE anticipates that the preliminary SER will be approved by November 4.

Problem: Additional fire protection requirements were identified that will impact dome design and construction.

Solution: Fire protection system modifications will be implemented without delay to the existing construction schedule. A modification to the RCRA permit will be prepared to describe the changes to the fire protection system.

V. Summary of monitoring during the period August 1, 1994 through October 31, 1994.

In April 1994, a preoperational survey of the soils in the area where the new storage domes will be constructed was performed. The data from this survey did not identify any volatile or semivolatile organic compounds. Metals and radioisotopes were within the local background concentration range although tritium was elevated in the vicinity of the existing storage pads.