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

FEB 09 1995

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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

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

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Enclosed for your review is the fourth quarterly progress report for the Transuranic Waste Inspectable Storage Project (TWISP) at the 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 included activities related to the TWISP during the reporting period of November 1, 1994 through January 31, 1995. The following elements, as required by the Consent Agreement, are addressed in the enclosed report:

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



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FEB 09 1995

Mr. Benito Garcia

2

Supporting documentation will be retained at LAAO, and will be made available to your staff upon request. 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-111

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:

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

P. Schumann, ESH-19, LANL,
MS-K498

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MS-E517

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MS-K490

R. Nevarez, WMD, AL

TRANSURANIC WASTE INSPECTABLE STORAGE PROJECT
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
NOVEMBER 1, 1994 - JANUARY 31, 1995

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 May 1, 1994 through July 31, 1994.

1. **Approval of the TWISP Preliminary Safety Analysis Report**

The Safety Evaluation Report (SER) detailing DOE's assessment of the Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) was completed in November, 1994 and recommended DOE approval of the TWISP PSAR. DOE/AL accepted this recommendation and approved the TWISP PSAR in November, 1994.

2. **Start-up of TWISP Facility Construction**

TWISP facility construction commenced upon DOE approval of the TWISP PSAR in December, 1994. To date, construction is approximately 15% complete. Mobilization, site erosion control, dome procurement, and site grading are the major construction activities underway within the past quarter. *

3. **Waste Analysis Plan Development**

Efforts to develop a revised WAP with a specific waste analysis schedule are underway. For some time, a contractor has been tasked with developing a Waste Characterization Plan. The scope of that task has been revised to consolidate the previous requirements and the WAP.

4. **Sampling in Support of Eventual Closure**

In mid-April, soil samples were collected from various locations to 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. DOE/UC is currently in the process of conducting a more thorough review of the data. Because it is anticipated that there will be a large volume of data generated during the ten year life of the TWISP, it is proposed that data be maintained on site and be available for state review.

6. **Draft Health and Safety Plan, Quality Assurance Plan, and Project Management Plan**

Draft versions of a Health and Safety Plan, Quality Assurance Plan, and Project Management Plan have been prepared for the TWISP. Revisions to these documents will occur as a result of comments by internal UC organizations and comments on the PSAR.

7. Equipment Purchasing in Process

Equipment purchases necessary for safe waste recovery and storage are ongoing. Purchase of two forklifts and a vacuum truck are 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. Procurement of the drum vent system, and drum vents is currently underway.

8. 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 has been initiated.
- 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 currently in review.
- Real-Time Radiography (RTR) for non-intrusive inspection of drum contents: procurement is underway, the RTR should be on-site by late spring of 1995.
- Segmented Gamma Scanner (SGS) to quantify isotopic content of drums: an SGS is being developed within the Laboratory and should be available by March 1995; the SGS will be augmented with additional software to give it tomographic gamma scanning capabilities.

12. Training

Construction worker training requirements have been finalized.

II. Activities scheduled for the period November 1, 1994 through January 28, 1995.

1. TWISP facility construction will continue. Dome procurement for the retrieval and storage facilities are planned to be complete. Primary construction activities planned include erection of the retrieval dome over Pad 1 and installation of the fire water line to support retrieval and storage dome fire suppression systems.
2. The enhanced environmental surveillance of the TRU Pad area will continue.
3. Draft documentation such as the Project Management Plan, Container Recovery Safe Operation procedures (SOPs), the Quality Assurance Plan, and the Health and Safety Plan should be finalized. Additional draft SOPs will be developed as necessary.
4. Major equipment procurements will be ongoing.
5. Work will continue on planned waste verification facilities.
6. Upgrades to the Drum Prep Facility will be completed.
7. DVS procurement and testing will continue.
8. Modifications to the Drum Preparation Facility will be initiated.

III. Changes in key personnel during the period November 1, 1994 through January 31, 1995.

There were no changes in key personnel during this reporting period.

IV. Problems encountered during the period November 1, 1994 through January 31, 1995.

Problem:

Slow down of construction upgrades to Drum Prep Facility due to potential cost overruns.

Solution:

A new contractor will be hired to complete the remaining 15% of work. Work is planned to be completed by May, 1995.

V. Summary of monitoring during the period November 1, 1994 through January 31, 1995.

No new survey data is available.