



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

AUG 28 1995

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials
Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo St., Bldg. A
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Subject: Third Quarterly Report for the Transuranic Waste
Inspectable Storage Project (TWISP)

Enclosed is the third quarterly report for the Transuranic Waste Inspectable Storage Project (TWISP). This submittal is in compliance with our agreement concerning the retrieval of the drummed transuranic waste now under earthen cover at Technical Area 54, Area G.

As you can see, there has been much progress. We will continue to keep you apprised of the progress as per our agreement. One problem is listed and hopefully will be resolved through a meeting with your permitting staff.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact Jody Plum of my staff at (505) 665-5042.

Sincerely,

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

LAAMEP:2JP-013

Enclosure



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AUG 30 1995

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Mr. Benito Garcia

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cc w/enclosure:

Barbara Hoditschek

Hazardous and Radioactive Materials
Bureau

New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo Street
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87505

TRANSURANIC WASTE INSPECTABLE STORAGE PROJECT
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
May 1, 1995 - July 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, 1995 - July 31, 1995

1. Final Safety Analysis Report

The TWISP Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) is approximately 55% complete. LANL will submit the completed FSAR to DOE by November 1995.

2. TWISP Facility Construction

TWISP facility construction commenced upon DOE approval of the TWISP PSAR in December, 1994. To date, construction is approximately 80% complete. Facility foundations, site grading and water line installation are complete. It is estimated that the facilities will be complete (without fire suppression systems) by October 15, 1995.

3. Waste Analysis Plan

A revised WAP with a specific waste analysis schedule was submitted to NMED March, 1995.

Waste Analysis Plan approval by NMED is now on the critical path for retrieval activities.

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.

5. Drum Vent System

The Drum Vent System (DVS) is nearly complete. The system is undergoing testing to verify all working components. Because the DVS was not able to be used at Rocky Flats, LANL will incorporate the DVS into the TWISP Operational Readiness Review.

6. Equipment Purchasing

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. The forklift and vacuum truck designated for TWISP were delivered on site March, 1995. The second forklift is expected to be delivered by August, 1995.

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 glovebox is now on site; Design for the Phase II glovebox is complete; Phase II ancillary equipment design is nearly complete.
- **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 under 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:** The Laboratory now has an operational SGS that has been used at a variety of sites. The SGS will be augmented with additional software to give it tomographic gamma scanning capabilities before the end of this fiscal year.

II. Activities scheduled for the period August 1 through October 31, 1995.

1. TWISP facility construction will continue. The retrieval and storage domes will be erected. Site paving will be nearly complete. The ventilation system for the retrieval dome will be installed.
2. The enhanced environmental surveillance of the TRU Pad area will continue.
3. Draft documentation such as the Project Management Plan, Container Recovery Safe Operating 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 completed for this fiscal year.
5. Work will continue on planned waste verification facilities.
6. Upgrades to the Drum Prep Facility will be completed.

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 May 1, 1995 through July 31, 1995.

Problem:

NMED has not provided the amended language for the permit to incorporate TWISP. The application was completed with the submission of the WAP on March 31, 1995. This submission and the granting of conditional approval of the modifications for TWISP to the existing LANL hazardous waste permit was made in a May 11, 1994 letter from NMED .

Solution:

LANL and DOE have proposed meeting with the NMED on the progress of finalizing the permit modifications for TWISP.

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

No new survey data is available.