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

NOV 08 1995

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

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

Dear Mr. Garcia:

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

Enclosed is the fourth 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 per our agreement.

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

Sincerely,

Joe N-2
for

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

LAAMEP:3JP-004

Enclosure

cc:

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Mr. Benito Garcia

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cc w/enclosure:

Barbara Hoditschek

Hazardous and Radioactive

Materials Bureau

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**TRANSURANIC WASTE INSPECTABLE STORAGE PROJECT
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
AUGUST 1, 1995 - OCTOBER 31, 1995**

The transuranic (TRU) Waste Inspectable 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.

1. Activities accomplished during the period August 1, 1995 - October 31, 1995

1. Final Safety Analysis Report

The TWISP Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) is approximately 80% complete. LANL will submit the completed FSAR to DOE by January 1996.

2. TWISP Facility Construction

TWISP facility construction commenced upon DOE approval of the TWISP PSAR in December, 1994. To date, construction is approximately 99% complete. A final inspection of construction activities was performed as part of the close-out for construction. A "punch list" was generated as part of the final inspection. Once these activities are satisfactorily completed, construction activities will be complete (without fire suppression systems) as part of the contractual agreement. Facility foundations, site grading and water line installation are complete.

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

Soil samples were collected from various locations to be distributed as part of the TWISP. Analysis of these samples provided a baseline of information for comparison when the planned storage facilities are eventually closed.

The 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 Gas Chromatograph mass spectrometer will be awaiting installation. 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 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 December, 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:

8. Drum Prep Facility

Upgrades to the Drum Prep Facility were completed. A final inspection of construction activities was performed as part of the close-out for construction. A "punch list" was generated as part of the final inspection. Once these activities are satisfactorily completed, construction activities will be complete as part of the contractual agreement.

- **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 have been completed. The Safety Analysis Report has been approved.
- **Real-time Radiography (RTR) for non-intrusive inspection of drum contents:** Procurement is underway. The RTR should be on-site by December of 1995.
- **Segmented Tomographic Gamma Scanner (S/TGS) to quantify isotopic content of drums:** The laboratory now has an operational S/TGS that has been used at a variety of sites. The S/TGS was augmented with additional software to give it tomographic gamma scanning capabilities.

- **Passive active Neutron Assay (PAN)**

The PAN is fully operational for assaying Pu-239 and U-235.

II. Activities scheduled for the period November 1 through January 31, 1996.

1. TWISP facility construction will be completed as per the contractual agreement. The ventilation system for the retrieval dome will be tested.
2. The enhanced environmental surveillance of the TRU Pad area will continue.
3. Draft documentation such as the Project Management Plan, Container Recovery Detailed Operating Procedures (DOPs), the Quality Assurance Plan, and the Health and Safety Plan will be finalized. Additional draft DOPs will be completed as necessary.
4. Work will continue on planned waste verification facilities.

III. Changes in key personnel during the period August 1, 1995, through October 31, 1995.

Mike Baker terminated his employment with Los Alamos National Laboratory. Gilbert M. Montoya is the new Project Leader of the TWISP. He can be reached at 665-5396.

IV. Problems encountered during the period August 1, 1995 through October 31, 1995.

Problem:

The transformers installed for the supporting equipment in the retrieval dome were under-sized.

Solution:

LANL and the contractor have meet in order to increase transformer capacity, thus power all necessary equipment in the retrieval dome.

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

No new survey data is available.