



Department of Energy

Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

MAY - 9 1996



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, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Subject: FY 1996 Second Quarterly Progress Report, Consent Agreement for
Compliance Orders NMHWA 93-01, 93-02, 93-03, and 93-04

The purpose of this letter is to submit the above-referenced report for the Transuranic Waste Inspectable Storage Project (TWISP) at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The report is required by Section IX.C of the December 10, 1993 three-party Consent Agreement pursuant to the subject compliance orders. The reporting period for this report is February 1, 1996 through April 30, 1996.

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.

As you can see, there has been much progress. We will continue to keep you apprised of the progress as per our agreement.



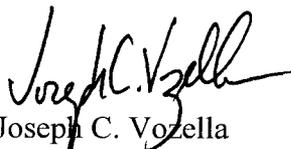
Benito Garcia

2

MAY - 9 1996

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

Sincerely,



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

LAAMEP:7HJP-031

Enclosure

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

**LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY (LANL)
TRANSURANIC WASTE INSPECTABLE STORAGE PROJECT
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
FEBRUARY 1, 1996 - APRIL 30, 1996**

The transuranic (TRU) Waste Inspectable Storage Project (TWISP) was initiated in February 1993 in response to the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED's) Consent Agreement for 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 February 1, 1996 - April 30, 1996

The Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) kick-off meeting was held on March 28, 1996. The meeting was well attended by DOE LAAO and AL. A tour was also given in order to facilitate the FSAR review process.

The (FSAR) was submitted to DOE-LAAO and Albuquerque for concurrent review. The DOE review was completed with comments submitted to LANL.

A Statement of Work was prepared for the retrieval phase of TWISP.

Activities pertaining to the Operational Readiness Review were initiated. They include the start up notification report, the plan of action, and the implementation plan start up.

2. TWISP Facility Construction

TWISP facility construction commenced upon DOE approval of the TWISP Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) in December, 1994. To date, Phase I construction is 100% complete. A final inspection of construction activities was performed as part of the close-out for construction. A "punch list" was generated and completed as part of the final inspection. Fire suppression systems were not part of the contractual agreement, with required installation beginning May, 1996.

3. Waste Analysis Plan (WAP)

A revised WAP with a specific waste analysis schedule was submitted to NMED in March, 1995. Waste Analysis Plan approval by NMED is now on the critical path for retrieval activities and a formal response from NMED is still pending.

4. Sampling in Support of Eventual Closure

Soil samples were collected from various locations as part of the TWISP. Analysis of these samples provided a baseline of information for comparison to be used in the future 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 levels, except for a few constituents commonly associated with analytical

laboratory extraction procedures.

4. Operational Readiness Review (ORR)

The ORR Plan of Action, and start-up notification were completed. The ORR Team Leader is in the process of forming the review team. ORR training will be provided for the Team Leader.

5. Drum Vent System

The Drum Vent System (DVS) is nearly complete. The system is undergoing cold testing to verify all working components. Because this DVS was not able to be used at Rocky Flats as originally planned, LANL will incorporate the DVS into the TWISP Operational Readiness Review. LANL is in the process of reviewing the feasibility of procuring an additional DVS from NFT Corporation.

6. Equipment Purchasing

A custom-designed forklift with custom boom/cage/hoist attachment is expected to be delivered in May, 1996.

7. Update on Waste Verification Facilities

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

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 and completed as part of the final inspection. All items identified were satisfactorily addressed. Construction activities are complete as part of the contractual agreement.

Waste Characterization Glovebox, Phases I (sorting), II (coring), and III (head space analysis): The Phase I glovebox is now on site; design for the Phase II glovebox is complete; Phase II ancillary equipment design has been completed. The glovebox is essentially 100% complete.

Waste Characterization, Reduction and Repacking Facility (WCRRF) (formerly the Size Reduction facility) upgrades for verification of hazardous constituents: The Safety Analysis Report has been approved, and is in the process of being implemented.

Real-time Radiography (RTR) for non-intrusive inspection of drum contents: The RTR was delivered in January of 1996.

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.

8. RCRA Permit Application Activities

A permit modification classification request and proposed permit revision text was submitted December 22, 1995, to supplement the final draft RCRA Part B permit application of November 1, 1995, for nine container storage areas at the TA-50 Decontamination Facility, the TA-50 Waste Characterization, Reduction and Repackaging Facility, and the TA-54 Radioassay and Non-Destructive Testing Facility. Proposed permit revision text was also submitted on January 31, 1996 for the TWISP Storage Domes and Pads. This is now on the critical path for TWISP start-up.

II. Activities scheduled for the period May 1, 1996, thru July 31, 1996

1. The TWISP FSAR comments will be resolved, resulting in an approved FSAR.
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 by the subcontractor receiving the retrieval contract. Additional draft DOPs will be completed as necessary.
4. Work will continue on planned waste verification facilities.
5. Work will continue in preparation for the upcoming ORR.
6. Installation of the fire suppression system will be completed.

III. Changes in key personnel during the period February 1, 1996 - April 30, 1996

No changes occurred.

IV. Problems encountered during the period February 1, 1996 - April 30, 1996

No problems were encountered.

V. Summary of monitoring during the period February 1, 1996 - April 30, 1996

No new survey data is available.