



# ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION UPDATE



Volume 1 ■ December 1992

## INFORMATION MEETINGS JANUARY 26-28

**Attend  
an Environmental  
Restoration Program  
Meeting and  
Open House  
for the Los Alamos  
National Laboratory**

### Los Alamos

Tuesday  
Jan. 26, 1992  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Hilltop House  
Taos Room

### Santa Fe

Wednesday  
Jan. 27, 1992  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Sweeney Center  
Room 3

### Española

Thursday  
Jan. 28, 1992  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
NNM Community College  
Room 132 Center for Arts

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
CALL 665-2127  
or 1-800-422-5265**

The third series of quarterly meetings and open houses hosted by the Environmental Restoration Program of Los Alamos National Laboratory will be held January 26-28 in Los Alamos, Santa Fe and Española.

U.S. Department of Energy and Laboratory representatives will provide an update of on-going environmental restoration activities. Updates about townsite sampling activities conducted last summer will also be available. Details about the environmental investigations proposed for two existing operations areas on DOE property will be covered on the agenda. Plans for a new facility to store mixed waste will also be discussed.

The public is invited to examine displays and associated materials and to talk one-on-one with DOE and Laboratory representatives both before and after a brief presentations by ER Program and DOE staff beginning at 7 p.m. each meeting.

### New Disposal Facility For Mixed Waste Planned At The Laboratory

Los Alamos National Laboratory has announced plans to build a new facility for storing and disposing of wastes that are both hazardous and radioactive, known as "mixed waste," which will be generated by ER Program activities. The facility would be a state-of-the-art capped and lined landfill with an advanced leachate- and release-monitoring system.

The ER Program at the Laboratory tentatively plans to build the new Mixed-Waste Storage and Disposal Facility (MWSDF) on Pajarito Mesa at TA-67, a site located inside the Laboratory's security fences. The MWSDF would be designed to have a capacity of 475,000 cubic yards of waste and would cover approximately 60 acres of mesa top.

The ER Program expects to use the MWSDF to store mixed waste produced as the result of cleaning up various sites around the Laboratory. Currently, no MWSDF that meets State and EPA requirements under RCRA's Land Disposal Restrictions exists at Los Alamos, or indeed in New Mexico.

The MWSDF proposal will undergo a full National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review in either an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment. The

public will have opportunities to comment on questions such as need, siting, and design during the public participation process. We will keep you posted on progress of the NEPA review as part of the ER public participation process.

### Information Repositories

**Community Reading Room**  
2101 Trinity Dr., Los Alamos  
(505) 665-2127  
**Hours**  
Monday-Friday  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Española Public Library**  
314A Oñate Street  
(505) 753-3860  
**Hours**  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
and Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Wednesday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Mesa Public Library**  
1741 Central, Los Alamos  
(505) 662-8250  
**Hours**  
Monday - Thursday  
10 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Santa Fe Public Library**  
145 Washington Avenue  
(505) 984-6780  
**Hours**  
Monday - Thursday  
10 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Friday - Saturday  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.



## Site Tours Offered; New Plans Expected Soon

Do you want to tour environmental restoration sites at Los Alamos National Laboratory with a group of Laboratory experts? The public is invited to sign up for open tours of Environmental Restoration (ER) Program sites that are currently being studied. Sign-up sheets for Spring 1993 tours will be available at the next public meetings (January 26-28, 1993). Tours of restricted areas may not be possible; however, briefings about restoration activities in those areas can be arranged.

At the last public meeting, which was held in September 1992, ER Program personnel announced that the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Environmental Restoration and Waste Management five-year and site-specific plans would be available by mid-October 1992. In connection with the release of the plans, the ER Program had planned to offer a tour of some of the potential release sites.

However, the DOE in Washington D.C. was not able to release these plans, which necessitated a delay in the planned tours. According to DOE, the five-year plan will be released in early January 1993, and the site-specific plan will be released soon thereafter. A student-reviewed version of the five-year plan will also be available in early January.

## Frijoles Mesa Cleanup Discussion Scheduled for January Meetings

Experts from Los Alamos National Laboratory's Environmental Restoration (ER) Program will discuss work plans, sampling plans, and approaches to cleanup at TA-49 (Operable Unit 1144) at public meetings to be held in January in Los Alamos, Española, and Santa Fe.

TA-49, which lies adjacent to Bandelier National Monument along State Road 4, was used for underground safety testing of

nuclear devices from 1959-1961. This site presents unique challenges to the ER Program at the Laboratory because the testing left residual plutonium in the bedrock to depths of approximately 100 feet. In addition, the site contains sumps, small landfills, and shafts containing lead, beryllium, and radioactive materials.

The public will have an opportunity to discuss work plans, sampling, and proposed remediation alternatives for TA-49 at the January public meetings.

## New ER Program-Wide Work Plan Issued

The new Installation Work Plan (IWP) for Environmental Restoration (ER) at Los Alamos was issued in November and is available for public review. The plan describes how the Department of Energy (DOE) and the University of California will conduct the ER Program at the Laboratory. The plan is updated

yearly to reflect program improvements and progress in restoration activities under the requirements of the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

The new plan contains sub-plans (annexes) that address program management, quality assurance, health and safety, records management, and community relations. Several of these annexes have been extensively rewritten.

The public is encouraged to review the new IWP at the ER Program's Community Reading Room at 2101 Trinity Drive in Los Alamos and at information repositories in Española, Santa Fe, and Los Alamos.



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