



BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

DOE/LANL Oversight Program
P.O. Box 1663, J-993
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Telephone (505) 672-0443 / Fax (505) 672-0466

JUDITH M. ESPINOSA
SECRETARY

RON CURRY
DEPUTY SECRETARY

June 21, 1994

Mr. Edward Norris
Programmatic Project Leader
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Mail Stop M992
Los Alamos, NM 87545

RE: IWP Meeting Notes

Dear Mr. Norris:

Following are notes from the May 20, 1994, meeting on Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) November 1993 Installation Work Plan (IWP). These notes have been reviewed by representatives of LANL, the New Mexico Environment Department's Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) and the Department of Energy (DOE).

Attendees:

Lars Sohlt	LANL/ER	Bruce Gallaher	LANL/ESH-8
Lee Winn	HRMB/TC	Pat Longmire	LANL/CST-10
Edward Norris	LANL/ER	Mary Perkins	HRMB/AIP
Teri Davis	HRMB/TC	Court Fesmire	DOE/LAAO
Bruce Swanton	HRMB/AIP	Alison Dorries	LANL/HSE-5
Dan Michael	Neptune/LANL	Tom Farmer	LANL/ER
Barbara Hoditschek	HRMB/Permits	Marc Sides	HRMB/Permits
Tim Michael	HRMB/AIP	David Hickens,	LANL/ER

Where pertinent, NMED's May 26, 1994 comments on the IWP are included in italics. All parties agreed that decisions made during the meeting would not be construed as formal; that any formal decisions made as a result of this meeting would be formed in writing. This caveat is not reiterated below where verbal decisions by specific parties are described.

1. The question arose regarding whether EPA was going to release a second NOD on the IWP which would roll-in NMED's comments.



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In regard to NMED workplan comments, NMED stated that it understands the desirability of coordinating its comments with EPA's submittal schedule and that NMED would see that its future comments are coordinated with those of EPA as they have been for the past six months.

2. The fourth IWP version will be drafted by June 10, edited by August 1, and finally reviewed by DOE during August of this year. The final printing will be available by November 20, 1994. Swanton stated that he would request through management that NMED participate in the August review of the draft IWP in order to maximize the potential for the final plan to be acceptable to NMED.
3. *Why are the Framework Studies not outlined in the IWP?...Task III of the HSWA module of LANL's permit requires such a facility-wide hydrogeological understanding and serves as an additional reason for locating the specific procedures, milestones, etc., of the Framework Studies in the IWP.*

It was stated by various persons that DOE is technically in violation of Task III of its HSWA permit. Subsequent review of the HSWA Permit indicates that there is no compliance date set in the permit for Task III and thus DOE does **not** appear to be in violation of its permit at this time; however, it is clear that the objectives set forth in Task III have not been fulfilled, and all at the meeting agreed that the first step in addressing this issue would be to include in the next IWP version a listing of each requirement in Task III of LANL's HSWA permit and the active or planned program which would satisfy each component of Task III. Also, if DOE/LANL were to conclude that any of the components of Task III were not useful toward the goal of environmental protection it was agreed that DOE/LANL could propose that its HSWA permit be modified accordingly.

There was also general agreement that a hydrology work plan might be developed to address HSWA permit Task III requirements. DOE stated that the baseline may be revisited to include these program elements.

Hoditschek stated that NMED wanted the projects which were designed to satisfy the requirements of Task III to be specifically structured to do so, that NMED was interested in seeing projects which would deliver the best Task III-specific information in the most efficient manner.

4. *In reference to the statement concerning Sandia spring, "This spring is fed by water from the main aquifer." This statement should be retracted until conclusive data exists to support this hypothesis. DOE/LANL agreed.*
5. *The IWP states, "Such circumstances may include a determination that concentration levels of certain contaminants must be lowered to protect human health and the environment, that higher concentrations will be permitted because background levels are elevated, and that groundwater is not a potential source of drinking water or is not hydraulically connected to a drinking water source need not meet drinking water*

standards." This comment raises general technical concerns regarding the future usefulness of groundwater and the presumed lack of hydraulic connection between alluvial, intermediate and main aquifers.

Soholt stated that this is merely a recitation of the possible outcomes and that no conclusion is implied. NMED agreed and the comment was withdrawn.

6. *Can it be assumed that all sites of deferred investigation status e.g., firing sites, are presently allowed to continue releases of COC's [Constituents of Concern] to the environment without inclusion in the operating permit?*

Swanton clarified that this statement was directed at the vaporization of DU at active firing sites. After review of the draft notes subsequent to the meeting Soholt stated that 1) Swanton's statement should have been "...directed at the atmospheric entrainment of DU..." rather than vaporization, and 2) airborne DU is not under the jurisdiction of NMED or EPA as a HSWA 'constituent of concern'. Soholt pointed out the fact that airborne DU is included in LANL's emissions totals, and stated that the aerolization of DU at firing sites contributes less than 0.01% to total laboratory air emissions of radionuclides.

7. *The list of COCs in phase I investigations should not be determined solely by archival information where site analysis data can not provide more definitive information.*

Discussion of this issue resulted in several clarifications: 1) NMED's RCRA Permit program requires facilities to run a complete Appendix VIII (40 CFR §264) on samples from all sites unless the facility submits a justification as to why certain classes of constituents are not reasonably likely to be present and, 2) although the levels of some constituents found at a site may be too low to contribute significantly to risk, NMED will want to see the complete list of all constituents identified at any site above method detection limits (i.e., "J-flag" data or tentatively identified compounds).

Norris expressed concern regarding the cost-effectiveness of performing the complete Appendix VIII analytical suite at each of LANL's potential 1,700 release sites.

8. *The case example describes a MDA in which liquid organic wastes are present. The possibility of groundwater contamination should be included in the conceptual model if only as a deviation from the anticipated site conditions, and the means by which this deviation will be detected should be specified.*

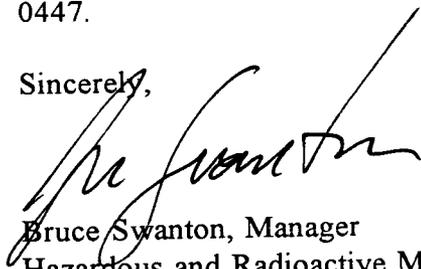
Wording to this effect will be included in the next revision.

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9. *"... such level II data may not be adequate to determine the extent of vertical migration."*
- D. Michael said that EPA has withdrawn its old data quality system (Level I - Level V, or low to high level data) in preference to a system which takes into account the precision, accuracy and detection limits of specific field or laboratory analytical procedures. He agreed to supply NMED with a copy of this guidance.
10. Norris presented a suggested by Hickens that LANL develop an IWP-type document covering technical approaches to NMED-regulated activities such as RCRA closure plans. Approval of this document by NMED would provide a foundation for consistent regulatory actions.
11. LANL and NMED informally agreed that closure plans would not reference the IWP for pertinent information; that closure plans would be stand-alone documents. Parts of the IWP could be included as appendices to closure plans.

If you have any questions or comments regarding these notes, please contact me at (505) 672-0447.

Sincerely,



Bruce Swanton, Manager
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau/NMED
DOE EM Oversight Program
Los Alamos Point of Contact

cc: NMED/HRMB Technical Compliance Program
NMED/HRMB Permits Program
NMED/HRMB/AIP Program
Dan Michael M-773
Lars Soholt M-992
Edward Norris A-199
David Hickens M-992
Bruce Gallaher K-490
Pat Longmire C-346
Court Fesmire A-316
Alison Dorries K-499
Tom Farmer J-493