

Reports

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Kathleen M. Sisneros, Director  
Water and Waste Management Division

FROM: Bruce Swanton, Program Manager  
DOE/LANL Technical Program

THROUGH: Benito Garcia, Chief  
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau

DATE: October 9, 1992

SUBJECT: DOE Oversight Quarterly Report

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CONFIDENTIAL  
TS  
9/17/92

LANL HRMB BENITO/GARCIA

PERSONNEL

The HRMB objective for Los Alamos has been to move one GEOIII from Santa Fe to Los Alamos and to reclassify one WRSIII at Los Alamos to a GEOIII. These positions will supervise two field teams, conduct various onsite investigations related to assessment and remediation activities, review HRMB- and LANL-generated data, reports, and recommend further HRMB or LANL actions to the program manager. Paperwork regarding both of these positions had been submitted to personnel as of the last quarterly report; I have not received lists for either position.

Carolyn Hedrick has been granted Leave Without Pay through January 4, 1993. Michael Le Scouarnec cannot be used at the Los Alamos office. The Los Alamos office is currently staffed Mondays and Tuesdays by two water resource specialists technically assigned to Santa Fe, and on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays by the program manager.

After the LANL WRSIII position has been reclassified to the GEOIII position, Willy Abeele's vacant Water Resource Engineer Specialist II position will be reclassified to an Environmental Specialist option D/F.

TRAINING

Radioactive Site Remediation Seminar presented by EPA July 23-24. (Katzman, Davis, Winn)  
National Groundwater Association annual meeting, Aquifer

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Restoration, September 30-October 2. (Davis, Winn)  
Environmental Restoration Project Management presented by DOE  
August 22-23 (Katzman).  
Leadership and Supervising Skills for Women - Rockhurst College  
of Continuing education (Winn)

#### MEETINGS

Sandia pre-public information meeting discussion of substantive issues, June 18. Issues: SNLA recommends short term actions be limited to vadose investigation; HRMB notes that regulations require direct vertical and horizontal assessment of the groundwater plume by an adequate monitor system.

Public information hearing on Chemical Waste Landfill, June 25.

LANL, 6/9. TA35 surface impoundment. Issue is whether potential vertical contamination has been determined, also to locate down-canyon sample sites to conclude whether release from the unit has occurred.

LANL, 6/16. All tech staff met with active Operable Unit project leaders and ER program project leaders. Issues: what are acceptable detection limits, what analytical levels should be used to indicate contamination, schedule for summer activities at OU1078 and 1079.

Internal, 8/18. Issues: staff recommends 12 additional wells at Chemical Waste Landfill. Will regulations support installation of wells located to determine vertical gradient which are currently outside of any plume (e.g., are clean at uppermost aquifer).

SNLA, 8/24. Subject: overview of planned ER program at SNL.

Rocky Flats Project Office, 8/25. First teleconference with Colorado State AIP program staff. Subject: Colorado's Federal Facility Compliance Agreement with DOE.

EPA, 9/16. Subject: State/EPA opinions regarding the RFI workplans at LANL.

EPA/DOE, 9/30. Subject: Mercury contamination site at LANL TA 3.

AIP Internal Meeting. Main result was formation of a task force to determine what exposure limits for staff would be set in site-specific health and safety plans for both rad and volatile contaminants.

State and Tribal Working Group. (Swanton) Main result: STGWG membership agreed that a consensus might be reached regarding Environmental Restoration Program cleanup levels. Future meetings will address this goal.

DOE/LANL/HRMB. (Swanton) Main result: HRMB can request work to be done directly through LANL and needs to go through DOE only if the work requires more than one FTE one full day to achieve. Office space acquisition to be facilitated directly by Al Tiedman.

#### DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

LANL HSWA Permit. (Swanton) Permit requires work to investigate the occurrence of perched aquifers in the Pajarito Canyons.

Hazardous Waste Identification proposed rule. (Swanton) Issues: self-regulation component is unacceptable, but changes in regulation under the "mixture" and "derived-from" rules would be positive.

Proposed Actions regarding Transuranic Waste Storage Pads 1, 2 and 4 at TA-54 Area G. (Katzman) Issues: Schedule for removal of TRU waste drums from subsurface, non-inspectable storage is unacceptable. Proposed expedited removal to low-tech modular metal warehouse building.

TA16 Area P Landfill Closure Plan. (Katzman) Issue: should this be a non-HSWA RCRA site (leading to more rapid actions) or remain a part of the HSWA ER Program (leading to a later date of evaluation).

OU1078 RFI Workplan. (Swanton/Katzman). Issue: inadequate vertical extent evaluations, assumption that rad and non-rad will always be colocated plus proposed test of this idea at one site for possible application at all sites.

Nuclear Weapons Complex Reconfiguration PEIS. (Swanton) Issues: Reference to the Special Nuclear Materials operations formerly at Rocky Flats and proposed for LANL too vaguely defined. Cannot rule out that these operations may involve significant volumes of weapons related-nuclear materials.

Operable Unit 1079 RFI Workplan. (Katzman) Issues: document vague regarding future sampling, deep core samples inadequate in number to determine vertical extent of contamination, too much left to "expert opinion", assumption that rad and non-rad contaminants will always be co-located.

SNLA HSWA permit. (Winn)

#### TOURS AND RELATED FINDINGS

OU1078. (Swanton/Katzman/Davis/Winn) This is the canyon area south of Trinity Drive as well as the commercial and residential areas of the Townsite. Determined that NMED should participate in onsite evaluations for selection of sampling sites in areas of high relief or where "expert judgement" is to be used.

OU1130, TA36. (Davis/Katzman) Led to identification of the "Potrillo Sink", a disappearing stream which may outfall directly or indirectly into the Rio Grand.

OU1106, TA21. (Davis/Swanton) Led to identification of a major potential contaminant migration pathway ("epiclastic" layer), a stratigraphic layer within the Bandelier formation, which includes buried drainage routes consisting of sand, pebble to boulder sized deposits of high potential hydraulic conductivity.

White Rock Canyon. (Davis) One-week sampling event. Eighteen samples were collected from streams, sediment and springs by HRMB. Approximately 45 samples were collected by SWQB. Results are pending.

#### DELIVERABLES

Site Specific Health and Safety Plan. (Swanton) Drafted site specific plan, submitted to John Parker. Parker's staff is assembling a single plan to serve as site specific plans for WIPP, SNL and LANL in order to ensure that procedures are equivalent for all NMED personnel in the AIP program.

Site specific protocol. (Swanton) Reviewed and responded to LANL draft protocol. Awaiting revised protocol, at which point a consensus protocol will be formed and submitted via Benito Garcia to the division director.