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

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
 1994 AUG -5 AM 11:26  
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
 Teri D.

**AUG 03 1994**

William K. Honker  
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,  
 Region 6  
 RCRA Permits Branch  
 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200  
 Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Dear Mr. Honker,

Subject: Notification of New Area of Concern

A previously unknown Area of Concern (AOC) has been identified near Los Alamos National Laboratory. The unit is identified as the Asphalt and Tar Remnant Site and has been assigned the numerical identifier C-0-041. As Figure 1 shows, the general location of the unit is the northern portion of the town of Los Alamos, or Technical Area 0 (TA-0), which is associated with Operable Unit (OU) 1071. Although the site is situated close to a residential area, it is located on land currently owned by the National Forest Service.

The unit was investigated after a citizen notified DOE of the existence of tar on the ground surface near the west of side of Guaje Pines Cemetery. Field verification procedures were initiated to determine the nature and location of the new unit. Historical documentation and other archival data were researched to aid in identifying the site.

Archival data documents that C-0-041 was owned and operated by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), the predecessor of the Department of Energy (DOE), from 1943 to 1969. The earliest evidence of asphalt plant operations was found on a 1951 aerial photograph. A similar photograph from 1958 shows the asphalt plant to still be operational. A 1965 photograph indicates that the cemetery is active adjacent to the site and the asphalt plant is no longer present. No former personnel have been found to provide further background information for the time during which the asphalt plant operated. Land ownership was transferred from the AEC to the National Forest Service in 1969.

During field verification, the unit was found to be present in two distinct portions which cover a total area of approximately 50 feet by 600 feet (see Figure 1). The southern portion, where the asphalt plant was previously situated, covers a level area on which four piles of asphalt were found. The piles are approximately 3 feet in diameter and a few inches in height. Portions of a building foundation were also identified.

The northern portion of the unit consists of tar deposits that have flowed down a streambed. The streambed channel varies in width from 1 to 2 feet and has a maximum depth of 1 foot below the surrounding grade. The

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heaviest flows of tar are found in the central reach of the channel where they are seen to be a maximum of 4 inches thick. At the northern boundary of C-0-041, the tar thins considerably and is visible only in traces.

We believe that this unit poses no immediate threat to human health or the environment. However, because the public has expressed interest in the containment of this unit, the tentative strategy is to initiate removal with backhoe equipment near the end of the year after the tar hardens during cooler weather. Work plans for such activity will be incorporated into the OU 1071 RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) Work Plan.

We request that this AOC not be added to our permit due to the nature of the waste present in the unit, asphalt and tar, and the status of the unit as an AOC. We are notifying NMED Surface Water Bureau of the presence of C-0-041 under a separate cover. Should you have any questions, please call me at (505) 665-7203, or Courtland Fesmire at (505) 665-4718.

Sincerely,



Ted Taylor  
Program Manager  
Environmental Restoration Program

LESH:2TT-002

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:

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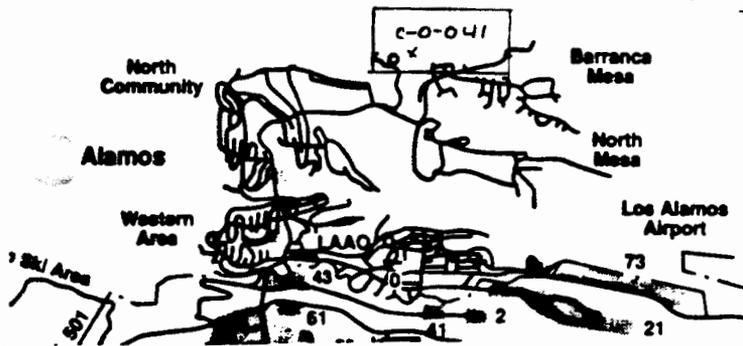
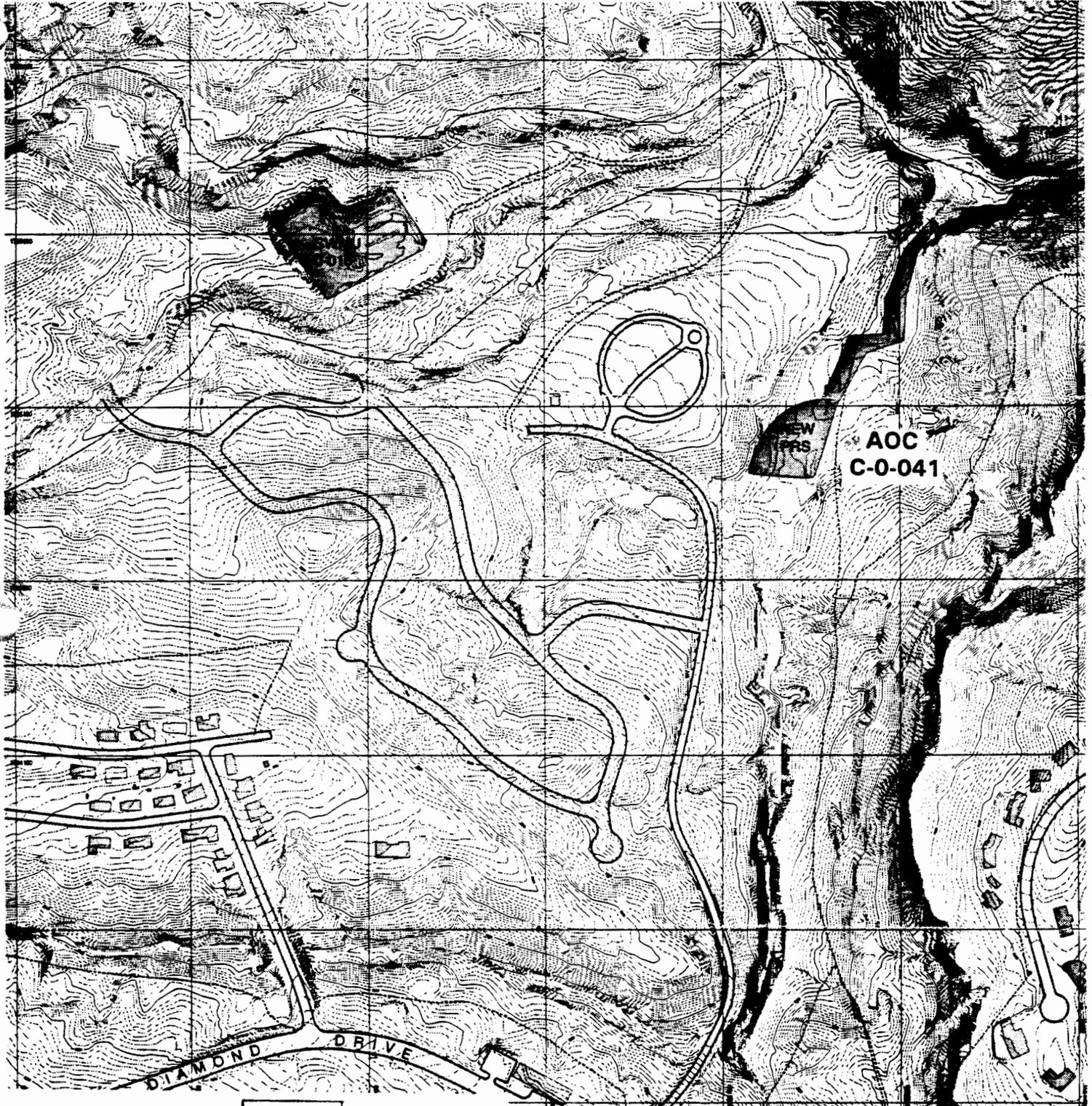
cc w/o enclosure:

K. Schenck, Scientech, LAAO,

B. Koch, Scientech, LAAO

T. Baca, EM, LANL, MS-J591

# NEW AREA OF CONCERN, C-0-041 (OU-1071)



0 500 ft

Figure 1