

LANL VISIT SUMMARY

Visit to LANL by Nick Stone on June 17/19, 1992 to observe mixed waste operations and tour the facility.

The tour was hosted by Jon Mack (DOE) and Jim White (LANL).

DAY 1

Upon arrival I met with the facility hosts at Tech Area 59 (TA-59). Jon Mack provided an agenda and I introduced the NMED representatives, Benito Garcia and Colby Muckelroy. The group went to TA-54 Area G where Ludwig Gritzko gave a general introduction to the facility and a safety film was viewed.

TA-54 Area G is solid waste storage and contains the TRU pads. LANL described the waste storage and disposal procedures used for non-hazardous and hazardous mixed wastes. Because of past management of the wastes, I reminded the LANL staff that the draft Compliance Plan must detail the remediation of the TRU pads to interim storage that complies with the Federal Register notice concerning mixed waste. The NMED is currently negotiating an agreement with LANL concerning these TRU pads and they want to coordinate the FFCA with the State action. LANL provided photos of the pads.

DAY 2

Four areas were toured. These areas contain the bulk of mixed waste generation and storage at LANL. A half hour meeting with Jerry Bellows (DOE) was held in the morning. Jon Mack, Benito Garcia, and Colby Muckelroy attended this meeting. The DOE stressed that the goal of the FFCA was compliance and that all efforts would be taken to assure rapid compliance. On behalf of the Region, I thanked Mr. Bellows for his cooperation and stressed two things: 1) good communication between LANL and the EPA would facilitate success, and 2) that the EPA fully supports the NMED. Benito Garcia (NMED) also thanked Mr. Bellows for the cooperation and noted that the State is actively pursuing enforcement of Federal mixed waste rules as well as State laws concerning LDR.

TA-54 Area L is the liquid/gas mixed waste storage area. LANL staff described the nature of the waste, described its documentation, and discussed the planned treatment and disposal of these wastes. This area stores the gas cylinders held under the DOE moratorium on RMA waste. LANL reports that tests will be completed in the next two weeks to verify that these cylinders are not radioactive and may be shipped off-site for proper disposal. The de-watered sludges from the radioactive wastewater treatment plant are also stored at this site. These sludges are expected to



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TA-3

fall out of RCRA by the staff at LANL with the implementation of the CBEC and ECHO rules.

The Controlled Air Incinerator, CAI, was toured at TA-50. This device has been tested but is awaiting full permitting before wastes can be burned.

The radioactive wastewater treatment plant was toured at TA-50. This facility treats all wastewaters that have the potential for radioactive contamination.

TA-55, the plutonium processing facility, was toured in the afternoon. This high security facility produces TRU waste and contains several satellite storage areas.

DAY 3

The final day allowed for a general wrap-up by the LANL staff and for questions addressed to the EPA or NMED. Most of the morning was spent at the CMR facility. The LANL staff provided a car tour of the Los Alamos area. The LANL waste characterization plan was discussed at length. The LANL staff stressed that the facility has many, low volume waste streams. Further, these waste streams change over time. Therefore, the matrices are designed to document types of wastes. Before treatment can be built, the individual drums/streams will have to be characterized.

TA-3, Chemical/Metallurgical Research (CMR), represents the working labs of the facility. There are several mixed waste satellite storage areas in this facility.

The group drove by the proposed location for the Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility. This facility is currently being designed for small volume treatment of varied waste streams. Construction has not yet begun.