

1988

EPA SURVEY - SITES OF RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION

SITE NAME:

Site TA-45 and Acid, Pueblo and Los Alamos Canyons

SITE LOCATION:

Los Alamos County, New Mexico

ACTIVITY AND OWNERSHIP:

Former radioactive liquid waste treatment plant operated by the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Site now owned by Los Alamos County; portions of the long, narrow canyon are owned by Los Alamos County, Department of Energy, and the San Ildefonso Indian Pueblo.

SIZE OF SITE:

TA-45 is several hundred m<sup>2</sup>, canyon is long and narrow and extends approximately 10 miles to the Rio Grande.

TYPES OF WASTES:

Sr-90, Cs-137, Pu-238, Pu-239, Pu-240, Pu-241, Am-241, U-234, U-235, U-238.

PROBLEMS:

Residual radioactivity on soils and sediments in channels of these canyons which are interconnecting. Intermittent runoff events transport and redistribute the sediments.

DEMOGRAPHIC/IDENTIFYING INFORMATION (GENERAL):

The site extends from the Los Alamos Townsite to the Rio Grande. The interconnecting canyons received both treated and untreated effluents from a radioactive liquid waste treatment plant (site TA-45) between 1944 and 1964 operated by the Los Alamos National Laboratory. The plant was decommissioned and the site decontaminated as well as part of Acid Canyon.

CONTRCL:

In 1967 site ownership was transferred to Los Alamos County to include part of the canyons.

STATUS:

In 1976, the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) identified the site as one of the locations to be reevaluated as part of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

2328  
TA-10



3377

**ACTIONS:**

Radiological conditions were evaluated and potential exposures to radiation were examined for conditions of current and possible future land use. In 1982, an untreated radioactive waste-line discharge area located SW of the former TA-45 site was decontaminated.

EPA SURVEY - SITES OF RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION

SITE NAME:

Bayo Canyon (TA-10) Site

SITE LOCATION:

Los Alamos County, New Mexico

ACTIVITY AND OWNERSHIP:

The TA-10 site was formerly owned and utilized by the Los Alamos National Laboratory for conducting experiments with high explosives.

SIZE OF SITE:

0.6 hectare

TYPES OF WASTES:

Sr-90, U-234, U-235, U-238

PROBLEMS:

Survey of the area indicated low-level surface soil (1-m) contamination with Sr-90 and uranium. Subsurface (4- to 8-m) contamination was found in the vicinity of an old waste disposal area.

DEMOGRAPHIC/IDENTIFYING INFORMATION (GENERAL):

Contaminated area located on floor of canyon whose upper rim is part of the Los Alamos Townsite. Facilities for conducting experiments with high explosives were utilized from 1943 to 1961 by the Los Alamos National Laboratory. In 1963, the site was decontaminated to detection limits of available instrumentation and demolished.

CONTROL:

Site ownership and control was deeded to Los Alamos County in 1967.

STATUS:

In 1976, the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) identified the site as one of the locations to be reevaluated as part of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).

ACTIONS:

Site was resurveyed, dose assessment conducted, and subsequently an area was fenced in that had elevated levels of Sr-90 in subsurface soil (4- to 8- m depth).

Toxic Release Inventory for Los Alamos  
National Laboratory for 1988

FACIL\_ADD1  
IR LOS ALAMOS AREA OFFICE

CITY  
LOS ALAMOS

CHEM NAME  
NITRIC ACID

FUGITIVE\_A    STACK\_AIR    TOTAL\_AIR  
0                850                850

WATER    INJECTION  
0                0

LAND  
0

POTW    OTHER\_OFF    TOTAL\_REL  
0                0                850